Mobile Disaster Hospital

Robert Latham, Executive Director
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency

Jim Craig, Director
Health Protection
Mississippi State Department of Health

The Tornado Threat

Before the Storms

- Conference calls with areas forecast to be affected.
- News Conference to highlight the threat.
- State of Emergency if warranted.
- Social Media:
  - Of Mississippi’s 2.9 million people, nearly 1 million are on Facebook.
- Taking shelter:
  - Since Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi has invested nearly $200 Million in safe rooms.

- 52 tornado warnings statewide.
- 23 confirmed tornadoes.
- Some level of damage reported in 27 counties.

Unified Command

- The National Weather Service and Storm Prediction Center started discussing these storms several days before the onset.
- MEMA activated the State Emergency Operations Center on April 28, 2014 at 7 a.m. ahead of the storms.
- State Emergency Response Team put on standby.
- A FEMA Liaison Officer arrived at the SEOC on Sunday, April 27 to coordinate any federal response.

- Gov. Bryant arrived at MEMA around 10 a.m. on April 28.
- Gov. Bryant spent the day at the SEOC coordinating the state’s response.

Unified Command

- The State of Emergency was declared on April 27, ahead of the storms.
- Having lead time before storms makes the decision making process easier, and makes the public more attentive.
Mississippi’s First Lady
Deborah Bryant

- Spent April 28, 2014 in Columbus, MS participating in her "Read Across Mississippi" program.
- Passing through Louisville when the storm was entering Winston County.
- Immediately diverted to the Winston County Courthouse to ride out the storm.
- Following the storm, she immediately began helping the local community. Within 45 minutes, she had a shelter open in Louisville.
- She dedicated several days and numerous hours to assist with clean-up and recovery in Louisville.
- This is not the first time that Mrs. Bryant has dedicated her time following a disaster.

Response Statistics

- Search and Rescue operations lasted four days.
  - More than 80 SAR Team members in two counties (Lee & Winston).
  - Last victim found May 1, 2014.
- 14 deaths statewide. 10 in Winston County.
  - State mortality team deployed to assist in Winston County.
- 1,120 homes destroyed or major damage statewide. More than 2,400 homes affected statewide.
  - President Obama declared a Major Disaster on April 30, 2014.
- Nearly 90 businesses destroyed or major damage statewide. 200 businesses affected.

Economic Viability

- One of Gov. Bryant’s priorities is economic recovery following a disaster.
- It is often hard for communities to recover economically after a disaster.
- Two of Winston County’s largest employers were destroyed:
  - Winston County Plywood Plant (200 jobs).
  - Was scheduled to open Summer 2014.
  - Winston County Hospital (Second largest employer in the county).

Winston County Nursing Home
Winston County Family Clinic

Winston Medical Center
Louisville Medical Associates

Entrance to facility.

Hospital and Nursing Home Evacuations
Many responders from a spectrum of health-related professions stepped in to assist the medical community.

COMMUNITY LEAD RECOVERY

• Governor Bryant
• Local Legislators
• Board of Supervisors
• Mayor Hill – Louisville
• Hospital Board
• Hospital CEO
• Community Physicians
• County Economic Development

The Community identified their healthcare priorities:

• Emergency Department
• Acute Care Beds
• X-Ray
• Laboratory Services
• Pharmacy
• Support community physicians in practice
• Keeping healthcare employees working
• Support for Electronic Medical Records

The Mobile Disaster Hospital – a federal asset – was deployed for the first time in a disaster on domestic soil in April, 2014...

…to Louisville, Mississippi.
MS Highway Patrol escorts caravan of trucks into Louisville.

A total of 23 trucks were needed to deliver the hospital from North Carolina.

The North Carolina Baptist Men’s Group traveled to Louisville and worked tirelessly to set up the Mobile Hospital.

Utility companies, County and City employees, hospital staff, and contractors worked tirelessly to prepare the site and open the hospital.

The North Carolina Mobile Disaster Hospital Team traveled to Mississippi to oversee the project.

Many workers Federal, State, EMAC, County, City, and volunteers banded together to ensure the hospital’s opening.

19 days after the storm, the hospital opened for patients as Winston Medical Center

Emergency Department

Five Bed Emergency Department.
Acute Care Beds

Eleven Bed Acute Care Module.

X-Ray

Laboratory Services and Pharmacy

Support community physicians in practice

Keeping healthcare employees working

Support for Electronic Medical Records

C Spire connected hospital to fiber optic line set prior to storm.

The mobile field hospital continues to operate as Winston Medical Center in Louisville, Mississippi.
One of the most successful evacuations of healthcare facilities in the nation.

- Evacuation to church (intermediate facility) when a facility is impacted is a best practice and should be considered in all facility disaster plans.
- Community Lead Recovery
  - Restoration of identified priorities
  - Governor’s TOP priority in recovery

Community has resilient traits
- Strong leadership
- Inclusiveness in decision processes
- Working together for the good of the community

Work still remains

Safe Rooms used in Joplin, Missouri. Interior design compliments of Joplin elementary school students.
“Semper Gumby” – Always Flexible

Special Thanks to...

Dr. Lew Stringer

Disaster Plans are essential but...
Relationships trump Plans every time