

## **Joplin Tornado Response an Environmental Perspective**



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**MISSOURI**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES



**An Overview:  
Environmental Emergency Response  
Section**





## **Hazmat Emergency Response**

- Our primary mission
- State law gives the department the responsibility over and authority to respond to hazardous substance emergencies.
- MDNR is specified as the lead state agency for hazardous materials emergencies
- EER Section's job is to meet those responsibilities.

**24-HOUR SPILL LINE: 573-634-2436**

## **Incident Command Center**

- Receive environmental release reports
- Notify appropriate authorities
- Evaluate need for on-scene response
- Provide technical assistance
- Dispatch State On-Scene Coordinator
- Initiate cleanup

## **Environmental Emergency Response**

- Respond to Hazardous Materials Emergencies
- Oversee the Clandestine Drug Lab Collection Station Program
- Provide Field Services to Support other DNR Programs
- All Hazards Environmental Emergency Response

## All Hazards EER

- Johnson Shut-Ins/  
Taum Sauk Reservoir
- Flooding Events
- Ice Storms
- Water Supply  
Tampering
- Wastewater  
Discharges to  
Recreational Waters
- Tornado Events



## **Role of EER in Joplin:**

- Response and oversight of haz-mat issues immediately following the tornado
- EER as point of contact for the affected communities and the MDNR (Divisions and Programs)





# Environmental Emergency Response: Response and Oversight



## **EER Oversight: Releases of industrial and refrigerant gases (ammonia)**



## **EER Response:** Overturned Tractor Trailers





## **EER Response: Gas Stations**



**EER Response:** Orphaned drums were evaluated, stabilized and disposed of.





## **EER Response:** Recovered Bio Hazard items



## **EER Response: Mercury Cleanup**



## **EER Oversight:** Cleanup of auto lube facility





**EER Oversight:** Retail businesses held large amounts of hazardous consumer goods



## **EER Oversight: PCB releases from transformers**





## **Greater MDNR Role:**

- Coordinate Environmental Issues**
- Other Divisions and Programs**
- Other Agencies**



## **MDNR Divisions and Programs**

- **Division of Environmental Quality**
  - Environmental Services Program (EER)
  - Solid Waste Management
  - Air Pollution Control Program
  - Hazardous Waste Program
  - Land Reclamation and Mining
  - Water Protection Program
- **Division of State Parks**
  - State Historic Preservation Office
  - Youth Corps
- **Division of Geology and Land Survey**
  - Environmental Geology
  - Landfill Evaluations
  - Geologic Hazards

Affected Communities / FEMA / USACE / EPA

Task Force Phoenix directed by MONG

MDNR - Environmental Emergency Response Section

**EER served as POC for all DNR Programs related to Joplin recovery**

**DEQ:**

**SWMP**

**APCP**

**HWP**

**Land Rec**

**Drinking Water**

**DSP:**

**Historic  
Preservation**

**DGLS:**

**Geologic/  
Hydrologic  
Review for  
Suitability**

**Directors  
Office:**

**PIO**

## **Waste Streams**

- Demolition/Solid Waste
- Vegetative Debris
- Household Hazardous Waste
- E-Waste
- White Goods
- Titled Property
- Waste Tires
- Infectious Waste

## **Storm Waivers**

- Asbestos Abatement and Demolition
- Disposal of yard waste and major appliances into landfills
- Burning of woody vegetation

## **Action Request Forms**

- Mission Assignments



## **Solid Waste Management:**

- Landfills – MO and KS - capacity
- Transfer Stations
- Potential Alternative Sites-both permanent and temporary
- Vegetative Reduction Sites

# **Solid Waste Management:** Illegal Dumpsites



## Vegetative Debris



## **Water Pollution Control Program**

- Land Disturbance Permits
  - Construction Sites
  - Some Demolition Sites
- Storm Water Permits
  - Vegetative Debris Reduction Sites
  - Vehicle Staging Sites (Titled Property Staging)
- General Permits for:
  - Staging of Solid Wastes
  - Mulch Operation



## **Air Pollution Control Program**

- Issuance of Burn Permits
  - Joplin / Duquesne
- Fugitive Dust
- Asbestos Containing Materials
  - NESHAP

## **ASBESTOS**

MDNR is a delegated agency of the EPA for the purposes of administering *the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP)*.

**NESHAP** contains requirements for:

- Asbestos inspection
- Project notification
- Emission Control Procedures for removal
- Waste Disposal
- Requirements for trained and registered contractors through accredited training providers

## **Waste Tires**

- Temporary staging
- Department of Corrections
  - Staff removed for shredding

## **Infectious Waste**

- Temporary staging - CDLCS
- Disposal through service company

## **Titled Property:**

Cars, Trucks, Boats and Recreational Vehicles





## **EPA Mission Assignment:**

- **Household Hazardous Waste**
- **Electronic Waste**
- **White Goods**
- **Regulated Hazardous Waste**



## **Temporary Housing / Critical Infrastructure**

- Proposed Sites required clearance
  - RCRA
  - Brownfields
  - Tanks
  - Mining activities
  - Historic sites
- Coordination with USACE / FEMA

## **State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)**

- Worked with EER on ensuring historic and archaeological resources were protected
- Staff from SHPO provided timely reviews and evaluation of properties deemed historic that were damaged in the tornado
- Sites chosen for redevelopment were also evaluated and cleared



## **Division of Geology and Land Survey**

Provided Geologic evaluations of properties that were potential sites for both temporary and permanent structures



## **Division of Geology and Land Survey**

Provided evaluation of potential landfill sites



The 24 Hour Spill Line  
**(573) 634-2436**

