



**Public Information Office**  
602 S. Main Street  
Joplin, Missouri 64801  
417-624-0820 Ext. 204  
417- 625-4707 (Fax)  
[www.joplinmo.org](http://www.joplinmo.org)

## Joplin, Missouri hit by EF-5 Tornado on May 22, 2011

### GENERAL INFORMATION

December 3, 2012

- Joplin population approximately 50,175 (2010 Census)
- Daytime population approximately 240,000
- Located in Southwest Missouri between U.S. Highway 71 and I-44
- EF-5 Tornado was ½ mile to ¾ mile wide, traveled approximately 13 miles;
- Tornado touched down at edge of western city limits, traveled on the ground throughout all of City to eastern city limits and continuing into the City of Duquesne and rural Jasper and Newton Counties
- Tornado winds estimated at 200 mph + ; NWS indicates it moved as slowly at 10 mph in some places
- Storm affected homes and businesses in both Jasper and Newton Counties in Missouri
- 161 lives lost due to tornado

### Recovery Efforts & Statistics:

- According to the Work Investment Board of SW MO, the **unemployment rate** for June 2011 was 8.9%. In June, 2012, it was 6.9%
- *As of October 19, 2012:* **Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity** has completed 22 houses following the tornado, has 45 houses under construction, and plans to begin 9 more houses this year. Many of these houses are in connection with the Governor's Challenge, a partnership between the State of Missouri and the major sport teams of Missouri to build 35 homes for families in need of better housing. For more information, contact Habitat at 782-6533 or go to their website, [www.joplinhabitat.org](http://www.joplinhabitat.org). In addition, other not-for-profit housing projects continue with new homes completed weekly.
- *July, 2012:* City Council approves predevelopment agreement with Wallace Bajjali, a development firm from Sugarland, Texas to serve as the master developer in recovery efforts.
- *October, 2012:* U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) formally presents the City of Joplin \$45 million in **Community Development Block Grant** funding. City's proposed budget for these funds includes more than \$31 million for housing; and \$6.5 million for infrastructure needs within the disaster area.
- **Mercy Hospital Joplin** working on new medical center and offices at 50<sup>th</sup> Street and Hearnese Boulevard. The hospital and temporary offices will cost nearly \$1 billion by the time the new medical center is completed in 2015.
- **Joplin Schools** Goals: Return students to permanent facilities by August 2014
  - New Irving Elementary School - tentatively set to open Dec. 2013
  - New East Middle School - tentatively set to open Dec. 2013
  - New elementary at East (yet to be named) - tentatively set to open Dec. 2013
  - New Joplin High School / Franklin Technology Center - tentatively set to open Aug. 2014

**Joplin Recovery – Building Permits:****Permits issued since the May 22, 2011 tornado through current Week:**

	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Week of 11/9/12	Week of 11/16/12	Week of 11/23/12	Week of 11/30/12	Current Totals
<b>Demolition</b>	1207	468	1	6	0	2	<b>1684</b>
<b>Residential repairs &amp; misc rebuild</b>	2487	1243	28	10	6	13	<b>3787</b>
<b>Residential New Build &amp; Rebuild</b>	441	552	5	6	1	2	<b>1007</b>
<b>Commercial New/Rebuild/Repairs</b>	132	263	0	6	7	5	<b>413</b>
<b>Multi-Family Rebuild/Repair (ea bldg)</b>	48	114	0	0	0	2	<b>164</b>
<b>Totals Weekly</b>	<b>4315</b>	<b>2640</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7055</b>

Multi-family buildings permitted represents – 1219 living units.

**80% of dwellings damaged have been permitted.** (3,787 + 1,007 + 1,219 = 6,013 / 7,500 = 80%)

Building Permits of Total residential repairs & rebuilds + Residential New Builds + # of multi-family building's living units / 7,500 homes damaged or destroyed

**History of Building Permits**

- On June 20, 2011, City Council passed a building hiatus in the EDR area to allow for a safe operation of debris removal that required large trucks to move through the area efficiently.
- Prior to completion of debris removal, on July 28, 2011 City announced Building Permits available for entire storm-damaged area (rolled out two areas prior to entire area being opened for building: West of Picher Ave opened July 8, 2011; West of Main Street opened July 22, 2011)

**Volunteers, through November 12, 2012:**

- 155,341 volunteers, including those registered through AmeriCorps and from other organizations who have reported hours to them.
- 960,176.5 hours of service from all reporting organizations/agencies. That's the equivalent of nearly 110 years' worth of service at a 24/7 pace since 5/22/11.
- Volunteer Information Line – for those interested in volunteering: 417-625-3543

**Residential Structures Damaged in Tornado:**

- Total of 7,500 residential dwellings in the City were damaged or destroyed by storm
- More than 17,000 people affected by tornado
- Of the 7,500 dwellings, approximately 4,000 homes were destroyed, causing an estimated 9,200 people to be displaced

**Debris stats:**

- Tornado generated nearly 3 million cubic yards of residential debris throughout the disaster area
- FEMA managed the Expedited Debris Removal initiative (EDR) that addressed debris removal in areas of extensive and catastrophic damage. This initiative allowed government-funded contractors to remove loose tornado debris from private property within a designated tornado-damaged area, and offered 90% federal match to a 10% local and state match for costs incurred. Missouri Gov. Nixon announced state would pick up the 10% match.

- FEMA mission-assigned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to execute the debris removal for the City. The Missouri National Guard proved state oversight to the process.
- EDR area was cleared by August 7. City worked toward this deadline to ensure a quick and efficient cleanup of the disaster.
- Many property owners used insurance proceeds to hire contractors for debris removal; and/or utilized the 100,000 + volunteers who have been active in the cleanup of the City.

### **Demolition Process:**

- City rolled out Demolition Plan with 3 options for property owners on, August 8:
  - Do It Yourself – if owner has insurance
  - Skilled volunteers affiliated with the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) carry out the demolition of residential structures and/or foundations on behalf of home or property owners. This work continues today.
  - Dangerous, tornado-damaged structures and/or foundations that are *not* removed another way will be processed through the dangerous structures provision of the Joplin City Code, starting with the Building Board of Appeals process.

### **Medical Services:**

- By 5-23-2011 Joplin and Jasper County Health Dept. medical services staff worked with local health partners to administer tetanus vaccines to residents and workers in the debris area to provide protection from this disease often associated with debris injuries. The plan included stationary and roving vaccine distribution locations moving throughout tornado affected neighborhoods.
- On 5-24-2011 tetanus vaccinations began and in following weeks over 17,000 tetanus vaccinations were administered by many medical partners in community.
- 14 area health departments along with other local medical partners aided the local tetanus administration effort including over 125 staff.

### **Animal Control statistics:**

- 1,308 pets displaced by tornado picked up and taken to emergency pet shelter by animal control staff
- 529 pets returned to owners from emergency pet shelter operated by ASPCA & Joplin Humane Society
- ASPCA placed remaining tornado displaced animals at end of emergency sheltering operation in new homes through an “Adopt-a-thon” and other placement activities.
- Pet “co-location” shelter with human American Red Cross shelter opened by Joplin Animal Control within few hours of tornado.
- Within hours of the tornado, Joplin Animal Control and Joplin Humane Society opened temporary pet triage clinic to provide emergency medical care for animals transported to the emergency pet shelter.
- Within 24 hours, Humane Society of Missouri was on scene working with Joplin Animal Control for planning animal rescue operations. Within 2 days these operations began.
- ASPCA arrived the day after the storm to handle the emergency pet sheltering operation, working with the Joplin Humane Society.

**FEMA Assistance (as of November 9, 2012):**

*Information represents Jasper and Newton counties as a whole, including cities of Joplin and Duquesne.*

- ◆ **More than 13 federal agencies supported critical emergency needs** and functions for Jasper and Newton counties. At peak staffing, **more than 820 FEMA employees** worked the Joplin response and recovery efforts.
- ◆ **FEMA and state officials immediately established four joint task forces** to manage the largest recovery priorities – Housing, Debris Removal, Schools and Critical Infrastructure. These task forces included numerous other local, state and federal agencies – all with the goal of bringing an experienced, comprehensive approach to recovery in these key areas.

**Individuals and Businesses:**

**10,746 Missourians** in Jasper and Newton counties registered for state and federal disaster assistance.

- ◆ **More than \$37 million in grants** has been approved for eligible Missourians in the two counties to help pay for home repairs, temporary housing and other critical, disaster-related needs through FEMA's Individual Assistance Program.
- ◆ FEMA also is providing **temporary housing units** for individuals and families who have not yet been able to move into a more permanent housing. These units currently are disbursed among nine sites – six pre-existing commercial sites and three group sites that were built specifically to temporarily house tornado survivors. At the peak of this housing effort, 586 individuals and families were provided a temporary home among a total of 15 sites.
  - *As of December 3, 2012, 511 households have moved out* of FEMA temporary housing and into longer term or permanent housing. As a result, six commercial sites no longer have to be used.
  - **75 households** are living in temporary housing units among the nine community and commercial sites. Of those, **52 households** live in the three FEMA sites; the remaining individuals and families are spread among the six commercial parks.
- ◆ Disaster Unemployment Assistance has been provided to help workers whose employment was impacted by the tornado but who do not qualify for regular unemployment aid. In the two counties, **541 claims totaling \$353,943** have been paid.
- ◆ The **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)** has approved more than **\$42 million** in low-interest disaster loans for **524 tornado-impacted individuals**, businesses and not-for-profits. SBA provides these loans to help cover property losses. In addition, SBA provides economic injury loans (working capital) for eligible businesses.
  - 417 low-interest disaster loans to homeowners for \$26.8 million
  - 103 low-interest disaster loans to businesses for \$14.9 million
  - 4 low-interest disaster loans to not-for-profits for \$256,400
- ◆ FEMA has provided more than **\$4.5 million**, to help fund crisis counseling services through community-based outreach and short-term interventions that help disaster survivors understand and handle the feelings they are experiencing. The counseling helps them review their recovery options, discuss their reactions and learn how to use or develop coping strategies.

- ◆ A grant of more than **\$5.3 million** from the FEMA Disaster Case Management Program was awarded to the Missouri Department of Economic Development to fund disaster case managers to work directly with survivors. The case managers – from Catholic Charities, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Lutheran Social Services – also will assist in developing a disaster recovery plan that may include referrals, monitoring of services and advocacy, as needed. **Tornado survivors who still have unmet recovery needs related to the storm can get free help from a Disaster Case Manager by calling 417-625-9192.**
- ◆ **7,522 individuals** visited four Disaster Recovery Centers and a Multi-Agency Resource Center to talk face-to-face with recovery specialists, access valuable recovery information and get questions answered about their individual cases.

### Public Assistance:

- ◆ FEMA provides grants to local, state and federal governmental entities, tribal nations and certain not-for-profit organizations to help reimburse eligible costs to remove debris, provide emergency protective measures and to repair or replace damaged public infrastructure and facilities.
- ◆ FEMA expects to spend **about \$177 million** to help remove debris, provide emergency protective measures and to permanently repair or replace public buildings and infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the tornado. To date, **about \$118.4 million** of that amount already has been paid to the State of Missouri for disbursement to **25** eligible entities, including local governments, school districts and critical facilities such as hospitals, for **more than 200 funded projects**.

*\* Funding subject to change based eligibility review process and potential insurance proceeds. Does not include costs for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Debris Removal operations.*

- ◆ FEMA has provided more than **\$341,000** in funding to the Corporation for National and Community Service for assistance from AmeriCorps to support local and state authorities. AmeriCorps St. Louis first arrived in the early hours of May 23 and has continuously been on the ground since then. Overall, **more than 350 AmeriCorps members** from seven states have served more than 76,000 hours in Joplin on various recovery projects including:
  - Coordinating the large influx of volunteers who came to Joplin to help clean up and rebuild
  - Completing more than **3,086** requests for homeowner assistance
  - Coordinating donations
  - Removing volumes of debris, including damaged trees and stumps
  - Building a recreational trail at FEMA's community housing sites
  - **Planting more than 900 new, donated trees** for homeowners
  - Coordinating volunteers to assist the City of Joplin with **planting more than 200 trees** at city parks
  - **Helping more than 150 Joplin homeowners** and renters in moving from temporary living situations to more permanent housing
  - Assisting with administrative recovery tasks
- ◆ Federal, state and local officials teamed up with **The Independent Living Center** in Joplin and other disability organizations to serve as a resource for individuals with disabilities, access and other functional needs -ensuring that people with disabilities, seniors and those with low English proficiency had the same opportunity as others to access and understand disaster assistance.

- ◆ **FEMA recovery specialists helped the Joplin community** establish a citizen-based, long-term recovery effort now known as the Joplin Citizens Advisory Recovery Team (CART). With input from a broad cross-section of the community, CART developed a long-term recovery plan and has begun its implementation.
- ◆ FEMA continues to work with a local **Long-Term Recovery Committee**, representing more than 50 voluntary agencies, on more than 1,000 cases of unmet, disaster-related needs.

**City Property Receiving Damage:**

- Emergency Management      Emergency Sirens
- Fire                              Two Fire Stations - No. 2 & No. 4 completely destroyed
- Fire                              Fire Apparatus
- Parks                             Senior Citizens Center
- Parks                             Cunningham Aquatic Center & Park
- Parks                             Parr Hill Park
- Parks                             Garvin Park
- Parks                             Mohaska Park
- Parks                             Ewert Park
- Police                            South Police Branch (minor damage)
- Public Works                 MAPS Trolley shelters (multiple)
- Public Works                 Curb, streets and Sidewalk, lights, Signs and Signals
- Public Works                 Building structure located at 20<sup>th</sup> & Connecticut
- Information Systems        CISCO Aironet blown off

**Information from Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, as of October 1, 2012**

- 553 businesses destroyed or severely damaged
- 4,500-5,000 employees affected
- Approximately 3,000 were kept on payroll in some capacity
- 446 businesses have reopened or are in the process of reopening
- 39 businesses have indicated that they will not rebuild/reopen
- 21 new businesses have opened\*

\*This count does NOT include contractors/builders that have set up local offices since tornado

**Cost of Disaster: Losses as of October 31, 2012:**

*Provided by Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Professional Registration*

<b>Line of Business</b>	<b>Claims Received</b>	<b>Losses Paid</b>
Commercial Property	2,142	\$986,829,440
Residential Property	8,647	\$535,724,886
Commercial Auto	309	\$4,377,076
Private Auto	6,982	\$47,898,047
Other Commercial	313	\$15,031,287
County Mutual Insurance Companies	1,477	\$61,789,887

<b>Total</b>	<b>19,870</b>	<b>\$1,651,650,623</b>
--------------	---------------	------------------------