

Kansas VOAD
Greensburg Tornado/Severe Weather/Flooding
Emergency Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2007
Barclay College

Dee Smith/Chairperson KS VOAD 816-898-9830
Darla Hesse/Co-Chair KS VOAD 316-219-4051

Initial discussion focused on the need and process for developing a sustainable local COAD. The goal is to develop local leadership which can facilitate coordination, cooperation, communication, and collaboration amongst faith-based and voluntary agencies to effectively address immediate needs and then evolve to support long term recovery efforts.

Individual agency representatives introduced themselves, their organization's current and anticipated relief activities. See attachment for meeting roster of attendees.

Pressing Issues

Donations:

- We need to turn off the flow of unsolicited donations, especially clothing. Unsolicited unsorted items have the potential of creating a disaster within a disaster. Work with United Way to discourage donations of unsolicited items during 211 call center interaction with the public
- **Kansas Food Bank, 1919 E Douglass, Wichita**
Default location for all donations (not just food). The Food Bank will sort donations and deliver them to all distribution centers near Greensburg.

Information:

- Encourage disaster survivors and volunteers to listen to 1610 AM to get updated information on a daily basis. Requests for additions to the public messaging on 1610 should be addressed to the PIO's at the Joint Information System:
 - billm@kdoc.dc.state.ks.us
 - mhall@olatheks.org

Outreach:

- There is a real need to increase outreach and relief services to impacted families and farms in impacted rural areas. Goal is to develop a lead contact person in each affected rural county to help link resources with needs.

Preliminary Rural Contacts:

- Kansas Rural Family Helpline –
Charlie Griffin: 866-327-6578
Kansas Rural Family Helpline has given the ok to the United Way Call Center (211 or 888-413-4327) to forward calls regarding homeowner requests for assistance in rural areas. Charlie has agreed to be the central clearinghouse for all rural requests.
Other Rural Contacts:
- Barton County Citizen Corps Coordinator
Kay Engleman: 620-792-2432, englemank@sbcglobal.net
- Strafford County Disaster Coordinator
Michelle Huston 620-797-0337
Tim Morris 620-549-6433
- Kiowa County Extension Department
Carmen Stanth 620-548-2422
- Edwards County
Karen Gilkie 620-659-3005

Special Client Needs:

Mary Richards, FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) introduced herself and shared that she was taking over Don Foote's role as the key FEMA liaison for voluntary agencies and special needs cases. Mary's number is 703-254-9277. Mary also mentioned an immediate need for help in providing transportation for an elderly storm survivor.

Needs to clarify debris clean-up process on private property:

Ultimately debris clean-up and non-salvagable housing demolition is the responsibility of the property owner. An owner must either do it themselves, pay a contractor to handle the work, or utilize volunteer and donated resources to complete the tasks.

Debris on private property must be site sorted into burnable, non-burnable, hazardous (chemicals, paints, tires, etc.), and white metal (appliances) piles. Debris must not be placed in a way that obstructs utility easements and connection points. Debris at the edge of a homeowner property line will continue to be loaded and hauled by KDOT, National Guard, donated and mutual aid trucks to burn/disposal sites.

Homeowner/Business Service Requests:

Homeowners must complete a service request, right of entry/liability waiver to access volunteers and donated equipment to help at their homesite with recovery or debris removal needs. These forms can be obtained at the Red and White Community Tent in

the City Park on the East side of town, Greensburg temporary City Hall next to the courthouse from 9AM-5PM Mon.-Sat. as well as on the KSVOAD website.

Volunteers:

Volunteers offering to help with the Greensburg Recovery effort must check-in and register at the Volunteer Reception Center. The center currently operates in the Red and White community tent in City Park on the East side of Greensburg from 8AM to 6PM Mon.-Sat. and Sun. from 1PM to 5PM.

Unaffiliated volunteers and volunteer youth less than high school freshman age are being discouraged in public messaging and the United Way 211 system for safety reasons.

Groups interested in volunteering and businesses interested in loaning equipment to support the recovery effort are being asked to call the AmeriCorps Coordination phone – 314-313-4779 in advance to schedule and match their capabilities with unmet needs.
Belfry

Other Items:

1st 4 temporary housing units (travel trailers) for displaced families are scheduled to go into service tomorrow, Wednesday, May 16.

The Greensburg 1st Baptist Church on the corner of Florida and Sycamore is in need of a boom truck to assist with the recovery of the church bell from the belfry. Contact Pastor Marvin 620-338-2241.

Notes compiled by Bruce Bailey
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