

Liberty County Emergency Operations Center **SITUATION REPORT**

DATE: March 19, 1700 EST

This is the Situation Report for Friday, March 19. This information is current as of 1700 EST. The next scheduled Level 1 briefing is set for 2021, March 19th.

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

County and local government agencies are continuing to assess the damage from storms which tracked across the Liberty County over the last 72 hours. There are no reports of injuries, but there have been numerous reports of property losses, road damage, and debris due to flooding. Additional storms moved across the state today, bringing more rain, damaging winds, hail, and an unconfirmed tornado north of Roaring River.

DECLARATIONS

Listing: No State of Emergency declarations have been declared yet.

SHELTERS

There are two shelters in Central City that are open. There is one shelter on standby.

WEATHER & HYDROLOGY

The National Weather Service reports that with the region's heavy rain, snow melt, and saturated soils over the past several days, a flash flood watch that was issued for west central and central Liberty County has been extended until 8 pm. High winds, heavy rain, and localized flooding affected most of the state. Strong gusty winds and 2" hail stones were reported throughout the state.

COUNTY IMPACTS

The State EMA has contacted Liberty County's EMA. The state has no requests for assistance at this time.

After the recent windstorm, the County EMA Director is reporting agriculture damage. Many trees and power lines are down throughout the county. Downtown Central received high winds that downed trees and power lines. A large debris field is reported along State Highway 107.

A state of emergency has been declared in Roaring River. There are reports of a potential tornado passing over the town. There is a damage path approximately one mile in length and National Weather Service reported rotation detected in the area at approximately the same time the town was damaged.

There have been rescues of people from collapsed structures. Injuries have been reported, but there are no known fatalities.

The main Liberty County rail line is blocked by downed trees, which are in the process of being cleared.

No state support has been requested at this time, but this may change as damage assessment progresses.

A stream has flooded into the parking lot behind the Motor Lodge in East Central City. Fifteen homes were flooded and residences will be displaced.

STATE ASSISTANCE ACTIONS BY EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION

ESF 1 – Transportation

LCDOT reports they have opened the District Operations Center (DOC) to monitor crews working on storm cleanup efforts. They have several routes closed due to flooding, trees, and power lines down on system routes. The State of Columbia will monitor the LCDOT Radio – Main Frequency, while in active response to storm damage.

As of 1530 hours, LCDOT reports 39 flood and storm-related road closures and five restrictions due to the recent storms.

ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works

State of Columbia EPA has not received any notifications of significant impacts to public works under their regulatory authority relative to this incident, or released reports indicating substantial or imminent threat to public health, safety, or the environment.

All dams are being monitored by State resources. Currently, the Liberty County Dam is at Level 2, the second of three stages. Concern is based on the high level of the water, not on any fear of structural failure.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

Shelter Status Update (As of 0800 hours)

There are 3 shelters open, reporting the populations listed below. There are 2 shelters on standby.

| County | Location | Type | Population |
|---------|-----------------------|------|------------|
| Liberty | First Nazarene Church | Open | 72 |
| Liberty | Civic Center | Open | 112 |
| Liberty | Old YMCA | Open | 0 |

No mission requests as of this report.

Department of Aging

The State Department of Aging has been in contact with the five area agencies on aging (AAAs) and regional long-term care ombudsman programs (RLTCOP) that serve the impacted counties and asked them to continue to assess and report the impact of the flooding on elders and delivery of senior services. Several AAAs have activated their emergency plans and are contacting consumers, providers, and facilities in the impacted areas. Information about the dam in the Liberty County area has been shared with appropriate AAAs and RLTCOPs to determine if there are consumers and/or facilities at risk. The senior center in Liberty County can be staged to be a shelter if needed. Aging provided weather forecasts and warnings to all AAAs and RLTCOP in advance of potential severe weather this afternoon and evening.

Liberty County VOAD

VOAD reports that Red Cross is currently working six cases in their area due to flooding. No additional assistance is being requested at this time.

ESF 7 – Resource Support

The State EOC has not received any mission support requests. ESF 7 provided an information paper on sandbag availability and use to the field desk for a county request.

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services

The Liberty County Department of Health (LCDH) has maintained contact with local health districts, regional healthcare coordinators, and long-term care facilities in the affected areas. To date, hospitals, health districts, and long-term care facilities have expressed no needs, save one local health district that indicated it may apply for private well water sampling program. The Central City Health Department has been asked to supply tetanus vaccinations to their emergency responders, but they have not asked for any vaccines from LCDH.

ESF 10 – Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction

EPA has not received any release reports for hazardous materials that have a specific, direct relationship to this flash flooding incident.

ESF 12 – Energy and Public Utilities

As of 1630 hours, Liberty County utilities report approximately 29,607 homes and businesses (down from nearly 63,000 at 1430 hours) without power due to this evening's severe storms that swept through the state.

Statewide Approximate Total: 229,607

ESF 15 – Emergency Public Information and External Affairs

The State Joint Information Center is coordinating messages with participating state agencies on preparedness messages and information as the storms pass and we prepare for recovery.

A press release has been issued regarding the activation and status of the State EOC.

Currently, 20 tweets have been issued and no media interviews have been conducted.

SITREP DATA/BRIEFING

This is the second Situation Report for this incident.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The County EOC's Assessment Room has been staffed the entire day of March 19th and will be staffed until further notice.