

2024 Ice Storm After-Action Report

House Committee on Emergency Management,
General Government, and Veterans

May 29, 2024

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INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

- Lane County
 - 4 Federal Declarations in 5 years
 - Size of Connecticut
 - 13% has burned since 2020
- Timeline of events & incident impacts
- Role of emergency management
- Hotwash Process & Participants
- What we heard
- Looking ahead



INCIDENT TIMELINE

- Mon Jan 8 Initial weather briefing
- Wed Jan 10 Low snow forecast
- Thu Jan 11 Directors Call
- Fri Jan 12 Shelters activated/freezing rain forecast
- Sat Jan 13 No forecast change, Egan outages
- Sun Jan 14 Freezing less than expected
- Mon Jan 15 Directors Call
- Tue Jan 16 Freezing rain, emergency shelter, Governor declares EOC activated, surge in medical calls
- Wed Jan 17 Wrap up life safety, Springfield requests assistance
- Thu Jan 18 Unified Command (County/Springfield)
- Fri Jan 19 Community Resource Centers & Debris sites open
- Sat Jan 20 Transition out of EOC activation begins
- Mon Jan 22 Springfield EOC setup, County deactivates
- Thu Jan 25

IMPACTS

- Impassable roadways
 - Extended duration
 - Supply chain disruption
 - Tree damage & debris removal
- School/airport closures
- Isolation residents/communities
- City/County EOC staff were heavily impacted
- Severe utility damage & large-scale outages

Initial estimates \$32,434,126 in Public Assistance damages, debris removal, and emergency protective measures costs.



HOTWASH

- Raise important issues and lessons
- Identify capability gaps & solutions
- Debrief & discussion
- Whole community involvement
- Focus on objectives
- No blame environment

***FAILING
FORWARD***

PARTICIPANTS

- Lane County Sheriff
 - Search & Rescue
 - Dispatch
- Lane County
 - Emergency Management
 - County Administrator
 - Public Works
 - Public Health & Human Services
 - Central Finance
 - Technology Services
 - Assessment & Taxation
 - Human Resources/Risk Management
- University of Oregon
- Cities
- Fire Departments & Districts
- Hospitals
- Central Lane 911
- State Agencies
 - Oregon Health Authority
 - Oregon DHS Resilience Team
- St. Vincent de Paul
- American Red Cross
- Housing & Community Action
- Greenhill/COAD
- Lane Transit District
- General Public/Volunteers

THE AFTER-ACTION PROCESS

Hotwash Series

- County Staff February 5
- Community Roundtable February 22
- Damage Assessment Process February 22
- ESF2 Communications February 27
- ESF8 Public Health/Medical March 19
- ESF6 Mass Care March 20
- General EOC I March 26
- General EOC II March 28
- Egan Listening Session April 16

Role of EM

- Operational & Community Support
- Emergency Operations Center readiness
- Resource Coordination
- Communications & Messaging
- Advanced Planning
- 32 Core Capabilities (NPG)



HOTWASH/FEEDBACK
SESSIONS

What went well?

**Where were there opportunities for
improvement?**

What does “right” look like?

WHAT WE HEARD
...SUCSESSES

Operational Coordination

- EOC Improvements
- Fieldwork & Response (PPP)
- Seasoned relationships
- State Agency response & presence

WHAT ELSE WE HEARD...

Operational Coordination

- Overwhelmed EM agencies, devolution to County EOC, no one had a deep enough bench—volunteers and paid staff across all entities.
- County EOC/ESF support for many, small entities is overwhelming.
- Lack of leadership support for response (financial).

Utilities

- Urban area with many fragmented rural partners, small and without much capacity-- challenged by the environment and infrastructure replacement.
- Recovery challenges—some areas went 2 weeks without power, longer for other services.

Mass Care & Human Services

- Widespread event revealed the complexities of mass care environment.
- Unhoused system overburdened by those displaced by the weather and/or discharged from hospitals.

SIDENOTES

Communications & Alerting

- Insufficient weather radar capability/notification

Small Businesses/Impacts To The Economy

- We aren't aware of resources available to small business at the state level for businesses impacted except SBA...not helpful in our case.
- What role does the state play and/or does local government have a role in helping/supporting small business continuity and preparedness?

General Public

- Personal preparedness challenged.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Emergency Preparedness & Operational Readiness

- **Employee Readiness & Support**
- **Identify funding source/process for emergency response at the outset of an incident regardless of formal declaration (LIFE)**

Operational Coordination

- **Explore/support initiatives to bolster County EM/EOC staffing**
- **Restore Continuity of Operations/Government (COOP/COG) planning & consider as part of community outreach**

Mass Care, Housing & Human Service

- Perform assessment & gap analysis of emergency mass care resources
- **Continued support of unhoused, emergency mass care, and resilience hub resources**

REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Working together
with partners to
address critical
issues that affect all.

Emergency Disaster Fund

- Lessons learned from previous efforts.
- Identify funding source/process to support local emergency response at the outset of an incident.
- Gold Standard: Not tied to General Fund and budgeted annually.
- Explore states that have a disaster fund.

County EM/EOC Staffing

- Current source (EMPG) is waning and insufficient.
- Increased size of supporting agencies and frequency of hazards overwhelms.
- Cost-benefit analysis for small counties challenged to meet same requirements and responsibilities.
- Counties are (statutory) hub for local planning, response & recovery.

FINAL
COMMENTS



THANK YOU!