

# GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



## **STATE OPERATIONS CENTER SITUATION REPORT #3**

### **GEORGIA SEVERE WEATHER- MAY 13, 2008**

**Operational Period Covered: 6:00 PM May 12 – 6:00 PM Monday May 13, 2008**

#### **CURRENT SITUATION:**

The State Operations Center (SOC) activated at Level 2 in response to severe weather that affected 21 counties across the state. The SOC is responding to requests for assistance as they arise. The SOC will remain partially activated until further notice. Damage assessments continue.

Governor Sonny Perdue has declared a State of Emergency in Bibb, Carroll, Clayton, Crawford, Douglas, Emanuel, Glynn, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Laurens, McIntosh and Twiggs counties.

**The National Weather Service, Peachtree City has updated their preliminary report on the severe weather event which occurred during the early morning hours of May 11, 2008:**

- **Tornadoes No. 1 and 2** (Rated EF2) in Carroll and Douglas counties beginning at 4:10 a.m. A widespread 25-mile long path of damage up to three miles wide at some spots beginning in western Carroll County at approximately 4:10 a.m. The path started along west Jonesville Road off Georgia Highway 166 just north of Bowden and continued eastward roughly along Highway 166 through Carrollton County and eastward into western Douglas County near Fairplay. There were two brief EF2 tornadoes along this path of damage which was upwards of three miles wide. The path length and width of each of these tornadoes was 100 yards or less and maximum wind speeds were estimated at 110 mph. The first EF2 tornado spin-up occurred within the community of Jonesville approximately two miles east of where the wind damage commenced. Roofs were completely blown off two homes and numerous trees were down in the area. The second EF2 tornado occurred near the Diamond Court subdivision off of Cross Plains Hulett Road. Damages observed in the subdivision consist of one home completely damaged, two with significant damage, and a number of homes sustaining minor to moderate roof damage.

Non-tornado damages that were observed include widespread tree and roof damage from straight-line winds all along Georgia Highway 166. The Carrollton County Emergency Services facility sustained moderate damage. The damage from this tornado and straight-line wind event extends into south Fulton County.

- **Tornado No. 3** (Rated EF2) in Troup County beginning at 4:10 am. An EF2 tornado touched down around 4:10 a.m. near Highway 29 at Willow Wood Road about 5.5 miles northeast of LaGrange. The path of the damage was about one mile long and 150 yards wide. The tornado damaged three homes, destroyed a well house, and snapped numerous large tree trunks and limbs along its path.
- **Tornado No. 4** (Rated EF2) in Troup and Meriwether counties beginning at 4:15 a.m. An EF2 tornado initially touched down around 4:15 a.m. near 1112 Perkins Road in northeast Troup County about 4.5 miles southeast of Hogansville and tracked east-northeast into Meriwether County. On Perkins Road, a house was damaged and two trucks were destroyed as they were lifted up and tossed about 40 and 60 feet. Near Perkins Road and Duchesne Lane, near the Troup and Meriwether county line, the tornado completely lifted the roof off a brick home and partially destroyed a cinder block outbuilding. The tornado path was about 1.75 miles long and about 300 yards wide in Troup County and 100 yards wide in Meriwether County. The tornado lifted along Saint Marks Road about 9.25 miles northwest of Greenville.

- **Tornado No. 5** (Rated EF2) in Clayton, Henry, Rockdale, and Newton counties at 5:10 a.m. Initial touchdown of the tornado occurred in extreme northeast Clayton County near the Henry County line just east of Interstate 675. On initial touch down, it took the second floor off a house and did significant damage to other homes in the area. As it moved into Rockdale County, it moved southeast toward Union Springs and then into Newton County near Highway 20 where it lifted. The approximate strength was EF2 (120 to 130 mph) at touchdown, then diminished to an EF0 for the remainder of the track. The approximate width was around 100 yards wide and total path length was about 13 miles long.
- **Tornado No. 6** (Rated EF2) in Bibb and Twiggs counties at 5:50 am EDT. The tornado touched down near Lizella and tracked east finally lifting near dry branch in Twiggs County. This was not a continuous path, but it did produce sporadic major damage from Lizella to Dry Branch with widespread straight-line wind damage. The most significant damage was in the city of Macon with the hardest hit areas along Eisenhower Parkway and Pio Nono Avenue where two businesses were destroyed and several others sustaining heavy damage. Macon State College was hit by the tornado snapping or uprooting 50 percent or more of the trees and doing significant damage to several buildings on campus with the gymnasium sustaining the worst damage. This tornado varied from an EF0 to EF2 with the EF2 (130 mph) near the intersection of Eisenhower Parkway and Pio Nono Avenue.
- **Tornado No. 7** (Rated EF2) in Laurens County at 6:36 a.m. The initial touchdown occurred at the intersection of Old Macon Road and Oscar Wynn Road. The tornado continued on an almost due eastward track and strengthened to an EF2 tornado as it crossed U.S. Highway 441. A fatality and three injuries occurred when a double-wide mobile home was destroyed. The path length of the tornado was approximately nine miles with a maximum path width of 250 yards as it crossed U.S. 441 near Evergreen Road.

All together there were two mobile homes destroyed and six other homes with major damage. Some homes were shifted off their foundations with at least one with a roof missing and many with minor roof or siding damage. Numerous sheds and outbuildings were destroyed. Many trees were either uprooted or snapped off along the path of the tornado. In addition, widespread non-tornadic wind damage was reported throughout much of the county all the way from the Twiggs County line on the west side to the Johnson County line on the east side.

- **Tornado No. 8** (Rated EF1) in Laurens County at 7:00 a.m. The tornado initially touched down about one mile north of Lowery in southeast Laurens County. One mobile home was destroyed and numerous trees were snapped and uprooted. The damage path was about 0.5 miles long and 200 yards wide.
- **Tornado No. 9** (Rated EF3) in Treutlen and Montgomery counties at 7:16 a.m. The tornado touched down about three miles southeast of Soperton and tracked into northeast Montgomery County. The damage path was seven miles long and 150 yards wide with a maximum damage rating of EF3. One two story house had the second floor completely removed. The tornado also destroyed numerous sheds and outbuildings along its path.
- **Tornado No. 10** (Rated EF2) in Toombs County at 7:20 a.m. The tornado touched down around three miles southwest of Normantown. The damage path was about one mile long and 150 yards wide. In the Normantown area about four miles north of Vidalia, damage included three mobile homes destroyed, one brick house had major damage, and numerous sheds and outbuildings destroyed. It also turned over a tractor-trailer rig and put down approximately 200 to 300 pine trees. There were three minor injuries and seven families have been displaced from their homes.
- **Tornado No. 11** (Rated EF1) in Toombs County at 7:30 a.m. An EF1 tornado touched down about seven miles northeast of Lyons. The damage path was 2.5 miles long and 100 yards wide. Numerous trees were snapped and uprooted along the path.

- Damage survey teams continue to investigate other areas of damage and additional tornado damage may be discovered.

## **FIELD / COUNTY REPORTS:**

### **Bibb County**

Joint damage assessments ongoing.

### **Carroll County**

Joint damage assessments ongoing.

### **Clayton County**

187 Homes were affected by the storm (137 minor damage, 13 major and 1 destroyed).

### **Crawford County**

Joint damage assessments ongoing.

### **Douglas County**

Joint damage assessments ongoing.

### **Emanuel County**

Joint damage assessments ongoing.

### **Jefferson County**

Joint damage assessments ongoing.

### **Johnson County**

Joint damage assessments ongoing.

### **Laurens County**

Joint damage assessments ongoing.

### **McIntosh County**

McIntosh County has nine injuries, but no fatalities. Report of a spill of motor oil, diesel fuel and hydrochloric acid going into the water and sewage system in Darien/McIntosh County. The National Weather Service has been on site gathering data to determine the magnitude of the storm that went through. Some county personnel did a partial flyover 12 May 2008 and determined that 1194.42 acres were impacted. The length of the path was 6.35 miles and was 1300 feet wide. The site is located at the Industrial Park on Highway 251. The companies, Outboard Rejuvenation and Justified Customs, were leveled and the debris strewn for miles. The EMS/volunteer fire department station and state owned facility, Gateway, were damaged and have been condemned. There are numerous vehicles overturned and strewn. The two companies on site had containers of petroleum and hazardous materials on site that were damaged and the contents have been released to the environment. Glynn County Hazmat responded 11 May 2008 and overpacked two of the drums, dammed the storm water outlet and placed absorbent pads, boom, and socks to try to contain the release of materials. A few hundred feet of roadside wetlands have been impacted. There were approximately 70 pleasure crafts on site that also had fuel and batteries in them that were strewn and have released some of their contents. Both owners of the two companies did not have funds for the cleanup so

requested USEPA come in and assist. They have federalized the site, and their contractors arrived on site late this afternoon. Equipment has been staged and removal of petroleum and hazardous material containers will begin morning of 13 May 2008. Personnel from the offices of State Senator Jeff Chapman, U.S. Congressman Jack Kingston and State insurance Commissioner John Oxendine have been to the site. FEMA is due to arrive 13 May 2008. The county's command trailer was damaged in the tornado, so Liberty County brought their unit to assist with Incident Command. Georgia Power is working to get power restored to the citizens.

**Twiggs**

Joint damage assessments ongoing.

**OTHER AGENCY REPORTS:**

**American Red Cross (with ARC Observed Damage Assessment)**

No Report Available

**Georgia Power**

The Georgia Power Storm Center reports that at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, approximately 18,500 customers are without power. This number is down from 33,000 customers the previous evening. GA Power predicts they should have power to nearly all customers restored by midnight tonight (Tuesday, May 13). GA Power advises some spots or individual homes close to the direct path of the tornadoes may not be restored this evening.

***Next Situation Report will be issued as Situation Warrants.***

For inquiries of assistance or additional information please refer to the GEMA web site at [www.gema.ga.gov](http://www.gema.ga.gov) or [www.georgia911.org](http://www.georgia911.org) . A complete listing of resources can be found on the website, including shelter locations.