



CRAIGHEAD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

David Moore

Director



AVERAGE DISASTERS SINCE 1957

- ✘ Major disasters from 1957 till 2007 in Arkansas average from 1 to 3 per year

AVERAGE DISASTERS SINCE 1957

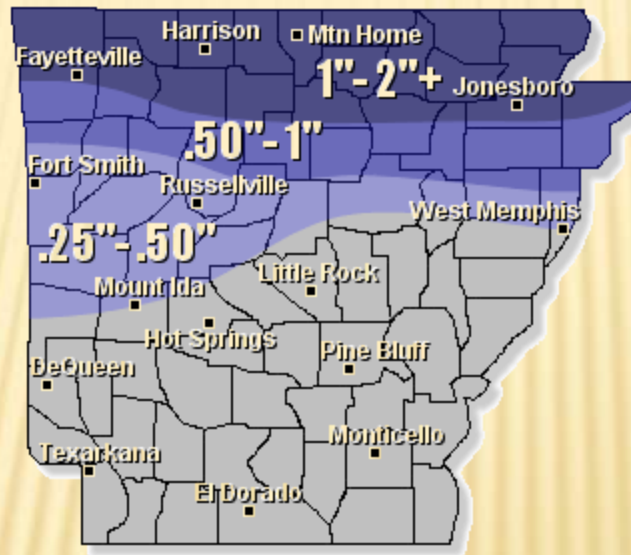
- ✘ In 2008 Arkansas had a total of 5 disasters
- ✘ 4 Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding
- ✘ Severe Storms and Flooding associated with Hurricane Gustav

AVERAGE DISASTERS SINCE 1957

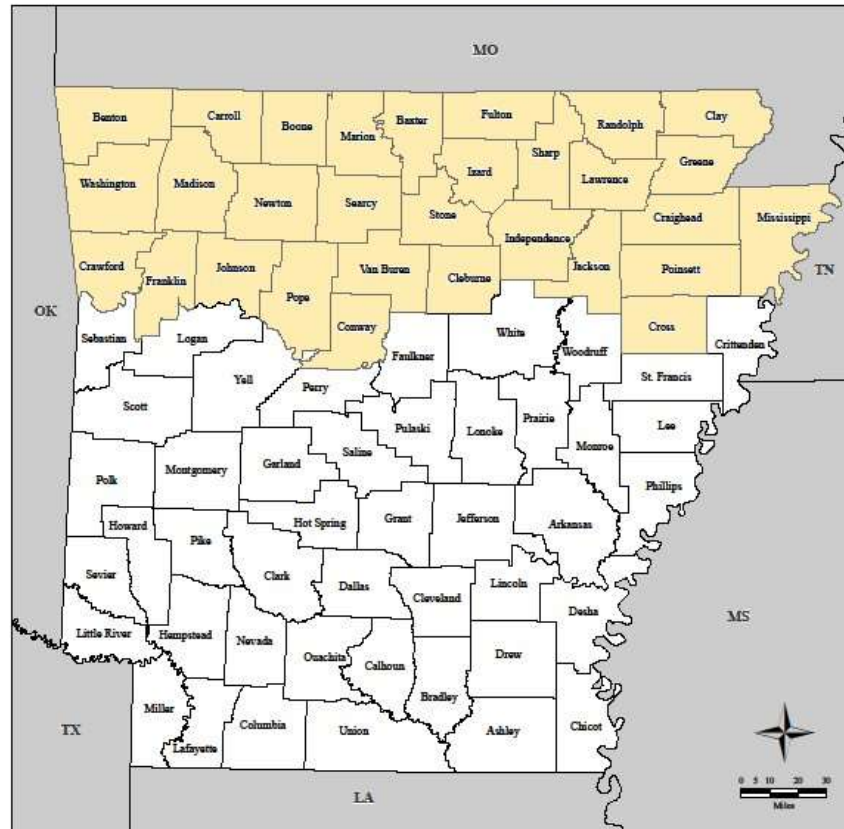
- ✘ 2009 Presented Arkansas another 4 Major disasters
- ✘ The first of 2009 was the largest Ice Storm in recent Arkansas history.

ICE STORM 2009

- ✘ more than 300,000 statewide without power



**FEMA-1819-DR, Arkansas
Disaster Declaration as of 02/24/2009**



Location Map

Legend

- Designated Counties
- No Designation
- Public Assistance

All counties are eligible for Hazard Mitigation

FEMA
ITS Mapping & Analysis Center
Washington, DC
02/24/09 - 12:55 PM EST
Source: Disaster Federal Registry Notice
Amendment No. 3 - 02/24/2009

CCEM
CRAIGH AD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MapID f2fb0267e1a0224091255hgrod

✘ 30 Counties that declared as disaster areas.













HUMAN IMPACT

- ✘ DEATHS – NINETEEN (19)
- ✘ BENTON COUNTY- SIX (6) DEATHS CONFIRMED
- ✘ BOONE COUNTY- TWO (2) DEATHS CONFIRMED
- ✘ CLEBURNE COUNTY – ONE (1) DEATH CONFIRMED
- ✘ CRAIGHEAD COUNTY – ONE (1) DEATH CONFIRMED
- ✘ MISSISSIPPI COUNTY – TWO (2) DEATH CONFIRMED
- ✘ POINSETT COUNTY – ONE (1) DEATH CONFIRMED
- ✘ WASHINGTON COUNTY- SIX (6) DEATHS CONFIRMED

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PER STATE

- × As of: 02/01/2010*
- × FEMA-1819-DR-AR
- × Damage Category Code Number Of PWs Federal Share Obligated**
- × A - Debris Removal 389 \$54,646,143.06
- × B - Protective Measures 486 \$10,350,330.21
- × C - Roads & Bridges 35 \$485,686.54
- × E - Public Buildings 136 \$357,666.97
- × F - Public Utilities 106 \$129,118,385.10
- × G - Recreational or Other 30 \$88,144.49
- × **FEMA reimburses the state for 75% of eligible costs for Public Assistance
- × Project Worksheets (PWs) Obligated 1182
- × Federal Share Obligated \$195,046,356.38

CRAIGHEAD

COUNTY'S

RESPONSE

PREPARATIONS

- ✘ Coordination efforts began early in the week. After watching the weather reports and seeing the probability of a major winter storm, we planned meetings with all possible response agencies.
- ✘ Conference calls with the National Weather Service and Arkansas Department of Emergency Management helped prepare us for what was to come

PREPARATIONS

- ✘ Meetings with all agencies starting days before the event and continuing during the event helped inform the responder of what to expect and to prepare for.
- ✘ We had to coordinate communication personnel for operational shifts in the Emergency Operations Center.



PREPARATIONS

- ✘ Running a 24 hour EOC was not something we were use to doing.
- ✘ Our normal operations were during a storm the lasted at most several hours.
- ✘ The dedication of our volunteers is what made communications during this event possible.



COMMUNICATIONS

- ✘ Our telephone system stayed online during the entire event.
- ✘ Cellular Telephone was intermittent in some Area and completely out in others.
- ✘ Radio system include
 - + AWIN (Arkansas Wireless Information System)
 - + Emergency Management (VHF Radio System)
 - + Rural Fire Radio System

COMMUNICATIONS

- ✘ Amateur Radio (HAM RADIO) is our backup radio system. We can depend on it when all else fails. Most of our volunteers have their HAM license.
- ✘ Our radio systems worked well during the event, so we didn't have to utilize HAM radio. One evening early on during a slow period one of our volunteers started monitoring Ham and saw needed traffic not being passed. After that point we monitored all HAM emergency nets to assist handling traffic for other counties.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- ✘ Craighead County Emergency Management
- ✘ Craighead County Health Unit
- ✘ Craighead County Judge's Office
- ✘ Craighead County Medical Reserve Corp
- ✘ Jonesboro Police Department
- ✘ Jonesboro Fire /Hazmat

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- ✘ Northeast Arkansas Medical Center
- ✘ St. Bernard's Regional Medical Center
- ✘ American Red Cross
- ✘ 911 Dispatch
- ✘ Craighead County LEPC
- ✘ Respond of Arkansas Amateur Radio Club
- ✘ Salvation Army

FIRST PROBLEM

- ✘ Jonesboro 911 dispatch was inundated with telephone calls reporting power outages. With assistance of local media we informed the public to contact the emergency operations center with any storm related traffic. During the initial response Craighead County EOC handled in excess of 2600 pieces of traffic.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Telephone and radio traffic overloaded our capabilities immediately, we addressed these concerns with the addition of 3 telephones, 3 temporary lines and 2 additional AWIN radios to the EOC.



PIO

- ✘ Jonesboro Police Department let their trained public information officer function as our PIO for the event.
- ✘ The need for a PIO familiar with local response was evident.



SHELTERS

- ✘ Initial shelter was setup at St. Bernard's Hospital Auditorium, it was quickly occupied to over capacity.
- ✘ Smaller shelters were opened in several of the small towns in the county.
- ✘ Tracking location of existing shelters in the county & daily status of each shelter and daily needs.



SHELTERS

- ✘ Reports of people coming to the shelter from other counties showed the need for either multiple shelters or a large shelter.
- ✘ Coordinating between Red Cross, Salvation Army and Baptist men's association for shelter/feeding.
- ✘ Generator needs including fuel for the shelters.



SHELTERS

- ✘ Red Cross did not have the personnel to maintain multiple shelters so we decided to open 1 shelter at the Arkansas State University Convocation Center.
- ✘ The shelters in the small towns were closed and merged with Convo shelter.
- ✘ Overnight status peaked at 350+ and a lot more came to the shelter during the day to eat.

MEDICAL NEEDS

- ✘ Medical reserve corp. setup medical screening areas in the shelters.
- ✘ Some were daily visits, some shelters required 24 hour access to make sure the shelter occupants received the medical treatments as needed.



POWER

- ✘ Power was restored to parts of Jonesboro within the first few days, but other parts of Jonesboro and Craighead County were out of power up to 2 weeks.
- ✘ Large generators capable of running water and sewer systems were not available the first day so we purchased 2 units to handle emergency situations until the FEMA generators became available.

FOOD AND WATER

- ✘ Distribution of food and water to people staying in their homes without power was imperative. Gathering information of who needed food was difficult but once located routine deliver was established.



RESPONDER NEEDS

- ✘ Shelter and support for utility workers restoring power.
- ✘ Showers for the workers
- ✘ Washing clothes for people in the shelters and the workers.



AFTER THE RESPONSE PHASE

- ✘ Coordinating with schools with losses due to no power.
- ✘ Locating sites to collect debris
- ✘ Recovery of cots to be picked up by Red Cross



RUMORS



- ✘ FEMA will pay for your generator
- ✘ FEMA is bringing in trailers
- ✘ FEMA is giving out debit cards



CRAIGHEAD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

David Moore Director

(870) 933-4575

dmoore@craigheadcounty.org