3.17.12
DISASTER SERVICES UPDATE

If you would like to learn more about how you can assist communities affected by disaster visit www.serve.gov or http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/howtohelp.shtm. If you would like to learn more about how to prepare your family and or community please visit www.ready.gov .

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MICHIGAN TORNADO AND SEVERE WEATHER

March 15th Late Thursday afternoon, a tornado touched down northwest of Dexter, MI approximately 10 miles northwest of Ann Arbor, MI. The tornado travelled on a southeast path touching down sporadically for approximately 3.5 to 4 miles. Local news is reporting that over 100 homes have been affected. No Federal Declaration of Disaster has been made at this time.

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and State Service Commission
March 16th
AmeriCorps NCCC and the State Service Commission are on stand-by to assist in the response effort.

TENNESSEE SEVERE WEATHER

February 29th Additional storms affected Tennessee on Friday, March 2nd. The National Weather Service received reports of eleven possible tornadoes. Damage was reported for over fifty homes. Forty injuries were reported in five counties; Hamilton, Bradley, Polk, Monroe and McMinn. The state's Emergency Management Agency has been active since February 29th. No Federal Disaster Declaration has been made.

OOLTEWAH, TN

NEW AmeriCorps NCCC - Southern Region
March 16th NCCC Southern Region is deploying River 2 a team eight members Ooltewah, TN (just outside Chattanooga in Hamilton County), in response to the March 2 tornado. The team will has be requested by United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Holston Annual Conference Early Response Team, and will assist UMCOR with debris removal throughout the affected area. River 2 will be deployed until April 1st.

INDIANA TORNADOES

March 2nd *The National Weather Service received 16 reports of possible tornadoes on Friday, March 2. There were 13 confirmed fatalities in Clark County and five injuries. Media reported the*

near total destruction of the town of Maryville in Clark County. Several road closures have been reported due to debris.

JEFFERSONVILLE, IN

Interfaith Council RSVP

March 6th

The Interfaith Council RSVP in New Albany, IN has sent ten RSVP members to set up and administer a Volunteer Reception Center in Jeffersonville, IN to assist Clark County, IN. This county includes the heavily damaged communities of Henryville, Marysville and Borden. These members have committed to this task for as long as is necessary.

KENTUCKY TORNADOES

March 2nd *In addition to the tornadoes that stuck several Kentucky counties on Wednesday, February 29th, severe storms impacted far western Kentucky and the southeastern corner of the State on March 2.*

LIBERTY, KY

NEW CNCS Staff Visits Affected Community

March 16th

Darryl James, Southern Cluster Manager for CNCS visited Liberty, KY this week to see first hand the AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members working the tornado response and recovery efforts. During his visit, Betsy Wells, CNCS State Program Director organized a cross section of sponsors, project supervisors and AmeriCorps members. These members included representation from AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps State/National and AmeriCorps NCCC. All of these entities, including the private sector are working together to recover from the disaster that affected their community.

While there, Darryl visited the community soup kitchen. A woman named Lulu manages the kitchen when not working as a nurse. The soup kitchen generally serves 100 meals per day but since March 3rd, the day after the Tornado, they have served 15,000 meals to the homeless, volunteers, or anyone who walked through their the door that needed a hot meal. The community soup kitchen is supported by a RSVP volunteer who happens to be the mother of an AmeriCorps Project Director.

At a lunch meeting with approximately 13 national service sponsors and representatives of local organizations, Darryl learned about their activities that showed a great example of how public and private entities can work well together in a crisis.

Darryl also had an opportunity to meet with VISTA, AmeriCorps and NCCC members at a local Volunteer Reception Center where the members are fielding calls of people from all over the country who want to donate items and volunteer to help in the clean up. These members are also taking calls from residents affected by the storm in need of skilled labor to remove a tree from their yard, fix a damaged roof, or in need of other help. The members, he reported, are doing a good job matching citizens' needs with volunteers' skill.

Finally, he was taken on a guided tour of the tornado damage in the town West Liberty, KY. "I can't find the words to convey the level of destruction the city experienced. Nonetheless they're in the cleanup phase currently, and looking ahead to rebuilding everything loss in the storm".

WEST LIBERTY AND MENIFEE COUNTY, KY

Morehead State University AmeriCorps Program

March 12th

The MSUCorps is collaborating with the Morehead State University Center for Regional Engagement to provide relief efforts in West Liberty. Members are working with All Hands, NECHAMA, the American Red Cross, AmeriCorps NCCC members, FEMA and the Index Community Center to provide volunteer leadership, home assessments and donations collection, management and distribution. Other members are serving in Menifee County, sorting and delivering food donations to storm survivors and leading volunteers in debris removal.

FRANKFORT, KY

AmeriCorps VISTA

March 12th

Up to seven AmeriCorps VISTA members from KY Domestic Violence Association in Frankfort, Next Step in Louisville, Carnegie Center for Literacy in Lexington and KY Campus Compact are serving various shifts at the Kentucky Emergency Management center since Friday March 9th. They along with volunteers, AmeriCorps State & National Program Directors and staff from the Kentucky State Service Commission will assist in coordinating donations of materials, manpower and other services that had been sent to the EMS or EOC website in the week following the tornadoes. These members received training from NVOAD on the National Disaster Management Network Matrix.

WEST LIBERTY, KY

Morehead State University AmeriCorps VISTA and Gateway Homeless Coalition AmeriCorps VISTA

March 8th

Three AmeriCorps VISTAs have opened a Volunteer Reception Center in West Liberty. This VRC was opened at 12:00pm today. These members will be administering the VRC with additional assistance from AmeriCorps NCCC.

AmeriCorps NCCC- Southern Region
March 8th
The NCCC Southern Region will be sending Delta 1, a team of twelve members to West Liberty, KY to assist Morehead State University with Volunteer Reception Center administration and volunteer leadership. Delta 1 will be working closely with the Morehead State University AmeriCorps VISTA project. The team will redeploy to the Southern Region Campus on April 9th.

MISSOURI TORNADOES

February 28th *A series of tornadoes struck the state of Missouri, including an EF-2 that hit Kimberling City and Branson. Damages were reported to over 167 homes. Three confirmed fatalities and over 50 injuries have been reported statewide.*

On March 4th and 5th, Idara Nickelson, Chief Programs Officer and Kelly DeGraff, Director of Disaster Services of CNCS visited tornado impacted communities and met with key leaders in the recovery effort in Joplin.

STONE AND TANEY COUNTIES, MO
AmeriCorps NCCC- Southwestern Region
March 2nd
AmeriCorps NCCC has sent Sun 3, a team of ten members to assist AmeriCorps St. Louis in Branson, MO in the tornado disaster response and assist with the current Red Flag Warning in Lebanon, MO. Seven members are helping AmeriCorps St. Louis in administering the Volunteer Reception Center and assisting and supervising volunteers. Three members are assisting with wildfire operations. Sun 3 will redeploy to the Southwestern Campus on March 16th.

AmeriCorps St. Louis – 12 Members Deployed
February 29th
Stone and Taney Counties have requested AmeriCorps members through their State EMA. AmeriCorps St. Louis began staging Volunteer Reception Centers late Wednesday, splitting 12 members between each VRC. These members will be led by a veteran AmeriCorps member who was active during the Joplin Tornado response. These VRCs will focus on volunteer coordination and debris removal. AmeriCorps St. Louis will also be contributing assistance for tarping and sheltering. Two members have been placed to support the state's 211 call center. A team of five are also being utilized to fight a wildfire that was present but exacerbated by the severe weather. The Stone County VRC may be reached at 417-598-8871 and Taney County VRC at 417-598-8865

OHIO SEVERE WEATHER

March 2nd *The National Weather Service received nine reports of possible tornadoes on Friday, March 2nd. There are two confirmed fatalities and eight injuries.*

CINCINNATI, OH
American Red Cross AmeriCorps
February 29th
Four members from the American Red Cross AmeriCorps program are in Cincinnati are assisting the American Red Cross with client casework intake and assisting in standing up shelters.

RESOURCES

VOLUNTEER RECEPTION CENTERS BY STATE:

Illinois
Harrisburg, IL: The VRC is being administered by Operation Blessing and can be reached at 618-294-9600. Operation Blessing has a page dedicated to the Illinois tornado with information on how to contribute: http://tinyurl.com/OperationBlessingIL

Indiana
Jeffersonville, IN: Metro United Way is coordinating the VRC serving Clark County, IN. The VRC can be reached at 812-287-0523. Their website offers volunteer registration for individuals or groups, donation information for those wishing to make a monetary contribution and information on the Indiana tornadoes, contact information and tips for residents. Here is their website: http://tinyurl.com/MetroUnitedWayIN

Kentucky
West Liberty, KY: Moorehead State University is operating a VRC. Volunteers may register online at http://msucares.volunteerhub.com/Events/Browse.aspx and the VRC can be reached at 606-783-8756.

Those interested in donating needed items or interested in volunteering may go to www.KYEM.KY.GOV for more information.

Missouri
Taney and Stone Counties:

These VRCs are being operated by AmeriCorps St. Louis Safety Corps. VolunteerBranson.org volunteers can download the volunteer registration and other paperwork to have prior to checking in at the VRC.

Taney County (Branson)

Volunteer: (417) 243-2144

Homeowner Hotline: (417) 243-2161

E-mail: acstlbranson@gmail.com

Located at Branson Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, 269 State Hwy 248

Stone County

Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) Hours of Operation: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Volunteer: (417) 598-8871

Homeowner Hotline: (417) 598-8865

Email: stonecounty.volunteers@gmail.com

Located at Harter House Market, 12622 State Hwy 13 & Kissee Ave