

When Disaster Hits, Who will be there to Help?

Head Start's Role in the Community



Goals

- ▶ Describe how a plan kept us safe
- ▶ Share how our HS program was involved with the Joplin tornado response

May 22, 2011,



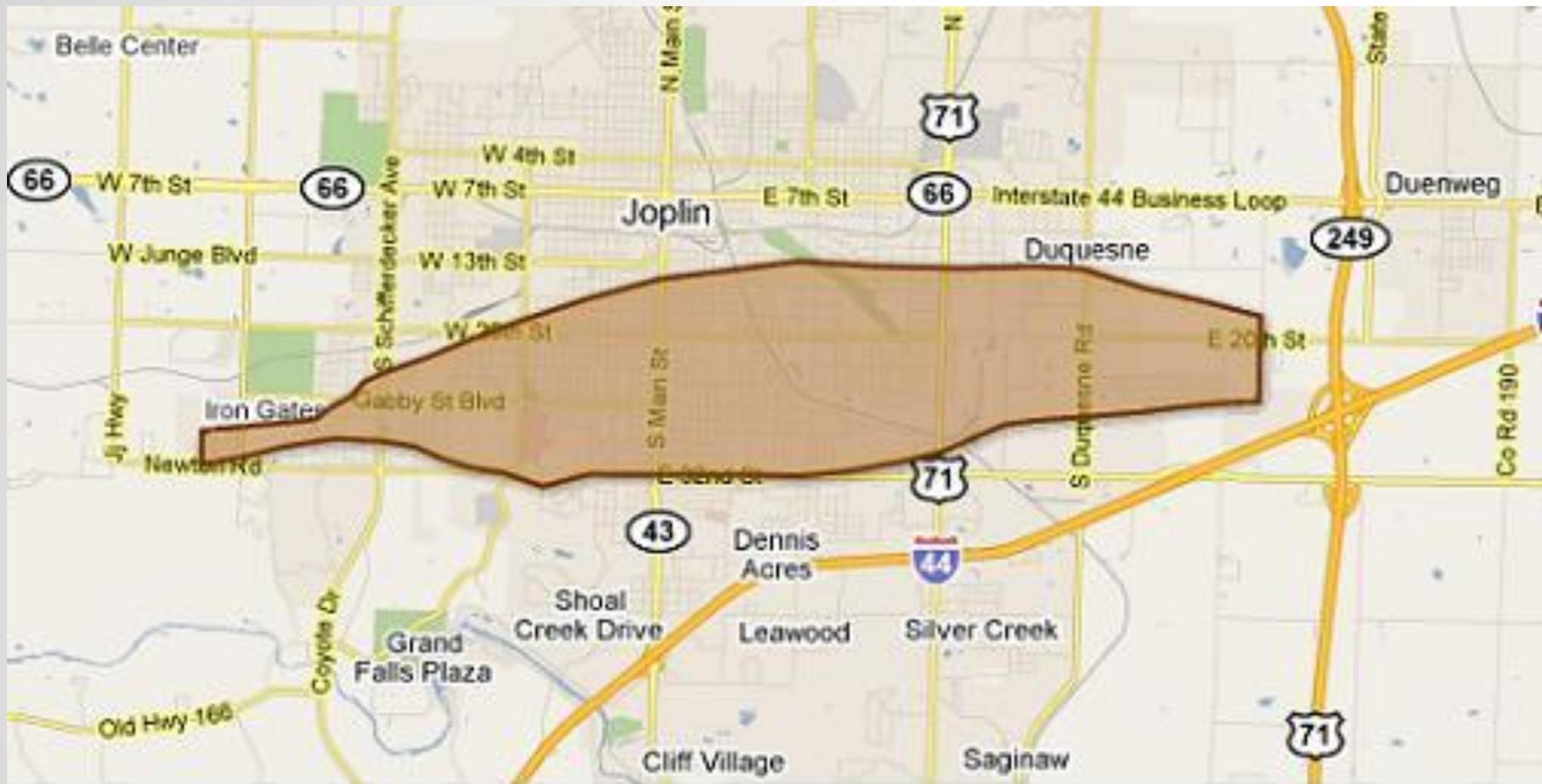
5:10 pm

5:17 pm

5:34 pm

5:41 pm





The Numbers

- ▶ 161 deaths
- ▶ 1,150 injuries
- ▶ 7,000 Homes destroyed
- ▶ 500 homes w/ major damage but still standing
- ▶ 18,000 cars totaled
- ▶ 1 / 3 of town destroyed
- ▶ 553 Businesses destroyed, 5,000 affected
- ▶ \$3 billion in damages
- ▶ 25 Agency employees have suffered either total or severe loss to their homes

More numbers...

- ▶ 17,000 tetanus shots administered
- ▶ 1,308 pets taken to emergency shelters
- ▶ 10,746 people registered for disaster assistance
- ▶ Length = 22 miles
- ▶ Width - $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 mile
- ▶ Time on ground = 38 minutes
- ▶ Over 130,000 registered volunteers



Home Depot



PHOTO: JOHN TORIGOE/CNN

Wal-Mart



St. John's Medical Center



St. John's



Just east of my house



My Neighborhood



My Street



My Neighbors



My House





**STORM
CLEANUP
918-402-9256**



Debris clean-up day at my house



The day after the tornado



Scary sky



Looking for their “stuff”



Typical effort – Waste of Time?



Impalement Injury

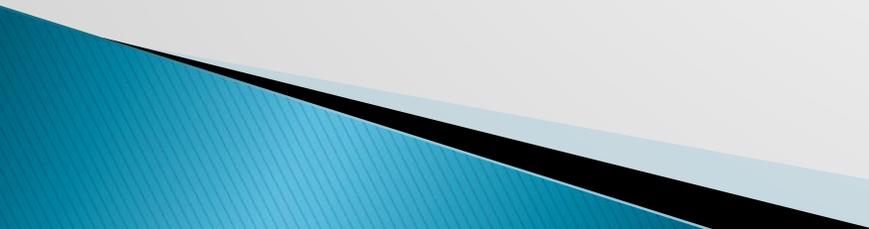


Not just people...





Head Start Buses

- ▶ Provided 8 buses and drivers Sunday evening to transport injured – They ran most of the night
 - ▶ Added two more buses the next day
 - ▶ By mid-week, we were transporting emergency responders
 - ▶ Later, FEMA staff and AmeriCorps volunteers
 - ▶ Finally, transporting tornado victims who needed transportation to address their recovery needs
 - ▶ 42,512 miles driven thru July 31st
- 



ESC Head Start Bus picking up tornado victims



Emergency Child Care

- ▶ Provided care for 120 children
- ▶ Set up classrooms based on age
- ▶ Worked with child care licensing
- ▶ Staff were amazing dealing with upset children, stressed parents and their own reactions

Other Head Start activities

- ▶ Locate all staff
- ▶ Locate all families
- ▶ Determine needs
- ▶ Address, refer, support and encourage
- ▶ Trauma Counseling for all staff
- ▶ Mental Health coordination
- ▶ Program issues (enrollment, transportation)
- ▶ New programs

Other Agency Activities...

- ▶ Weatherization workers assisted in the search for individuals trapped under debris.
 - ▶ We supplied sleeping quarters for volunteers
 - ▶ We sent staff to work at the MARC site
 - ▶ Extreme Makeover Home Edition
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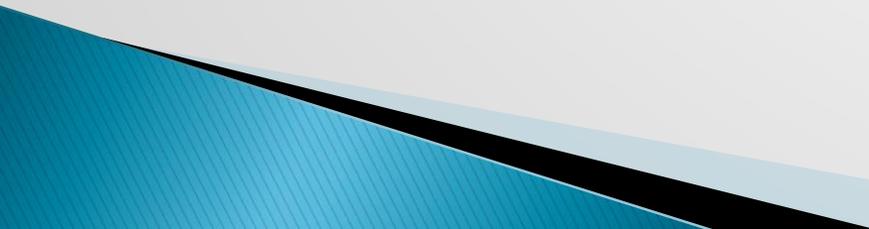
Extreme Makeover Home Edition – 7 houses in 7 days



Lessons Learned

- ▶ Have a plan! It saved our life!
- ▶ Teach “Ready in 3”
- ▶ Have up-to-date info for employees and families
 - Numbers
 - Addresses
- ▶ Don’t say no
 - When people want to help you
 - When people need help from you

Recovery tips

- ▶ Avoid cancellations –keep your regular schedule as much as possible
 - ▶ Provide the things sometimes taken for granted
 - ▶ Give families updated resource lists
 - ▶ Keep staff involved in community meetings
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Thank you!

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