



Camden County, MO
Emergency Management Agency

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Winter Storm Oaklee
February 23-24, 2022
AFTER ACTION REPORT

Prepared by

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Executive Summary - On Tuesday, February 22 2022, the Camden County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) began tracking a storm system (Winter Storm Oaklee) expected to impact the NWS Springfield viewing area by Wednesday, February 23 2022. Members of the Camden County Road and Bridge District (R&B), the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the American Red Cross (ARC), the Lake Area Storm Spotters (LASS), the Camden County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), local municipalities, and the National Weather Service (NWS) contacted the EMA directly to ensure communications in case anything came of the storm. The EMA and R&B met regarding operations for snow clearance and removal during and after Winter Storm Oaklee. The Camden County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated on Wednesday, February 23 2022 at 3:00 pm at Level 4. The EOC released joint statements with R&B for the duration of the event. The EOC was demobilized on Thursday, February 24 2022 at 4:00 pm. See below for further information.

Project Overview

Project Name:	Winter Storm Oaklee (02012022WS)
Date:	February 23-24, 2022
Duration:	~2 operational time periods
Location:	Camden County, MO
Planning Team:	Sam Henley, Pat Wolf, Bill Berry, Jenny Solomon, Steve Runnels, Eric Hoover, Ernest Venis, and Brenda Gerlach in addition to local first responder partners and municipalities
Number of Participants:	Numerous
Oversight:	Camden County EOC

Assessment

Objective 1: Check EMA radio cache capabilities.

Activities: The EOC provided Camden County R&B with one (1) handheld radio from the EMA's radio cache to test the difference in reception on a handheld with a higher power level than the other radios in the cache.

Assessment: As expected, the reception on the handheld radio with the boosted power was exceptional. We will now move forward with testing the remaining radios in the cache with the cooperation of Camden County R&B.

Objective 2: Assess capability and needs of the EOC.

Activities: Operating the EOC from Wednesday morning, February 23 2022 through close of business on Thursday, February 24 2022. Because of the overnight time period, EOC personnel remained in the EOC without access to showers. Also, computers used for CERT and EOC personnel were used, however many experienced issues with how long it took to access needed software.

Assessment: It has come to our attention that personnel operating the EOC may need access to showers. Due to the limitations of the existing infrastructure, one of the improvements that we will seek to make is to either build in a shower in case the EOC's operations are extended, or obtain a field shower. The laptops utilized by CERT and EOC personnel have aged and we recommend upgrading to newer laptops because Windows 11 is now available and the EOC needs to remain interoperable with other systems/software and partners.

Objective 3: Clearing county roads to ensure safe driving conditions.

Activities: Camden County R&B worked in a combined twenty-five-hour operational time period to continually clear the roads of snow and ice and treat the roads to help prevent additional accumulation. There was one wrecker call. Camden County R&B had to borrow 300 tons of salt from the City of Osage Beach.

Assessment: Roads were cleared. Despite being understaffed, operations proceeded smoothly. R&B needs to be able to store more pea gravel and salt mix for future winter storms. Observation of the joint operations between the EMA and R&B, including public relations and interaction as well as interoperability between the two offices, greatly reduced the number of complaints regarding R&B's operations clearing the snow from county roads from the last three storms.

Conclusion - With the increased assessment of EMA/EOC resources and capabilities, we are beginning to find places where the system or existing infrastructure is inadequate or failing and needs to be corrected.

Recommendations

The recommendations for correction are as follows:

1. The EMA radio cache would benefit from being reprogrammed for better interoperability between the EOC and our partners.
2. Build a shower into the EMA building OR ensure that an acquired field shower may also be used for HAZMAT decon purposes to allow for multiple types of usage.
3. Replace the old CERT/EOC laptops with newer computers that support Windows 11 to maintain the interoperability of the Camden County EOC and its partners.
4. R&B requires more space to store pea gravel and salt mix and more personnel.

The following organizations responded to mass notification alerts related to Winter Storm Oaklee:

1. American Red Cross via Jenny Solomon

2. Camden County 9-1-1 Dispatch Center via Maggie Rector
3. Camden County Amateur Radio Emergency Service via Ernie Venis
4. Camden County Commission via Don Williams
5. Camden County Community Emergency Response Team via Tim Giedd
6. Camden County Emergency Management Agency via Ricky Bumarch and Samantha Henley
7. Camden County Health Department via Stephanie Dake
8. Camden County Road and Bridge via Bill Berry
9. Camden County Sheriff's Office via Chad Bailey
10. Camdenton City Hall via Jeff Hooker
11. Camdenton Police Department via Jeff Beauchamp
12. Gravois Mills Fire Protection District via Ed Hancock
13. Lake Ozark Fire Protection District via Mark Amsinger
14. Lake Regional Hospital via Todd Farley
15. Linn Creek City Hall via Jeff Davis
16. Sleeper/Stoutland Fire Protection District via James Vaughn
17. Southwest Fire Protection District via Mike Hufferd
18. Sunrise Beach Police Department via Jeff Campbell