

# Winona County Environmental Services

---

## 2007 Flood Debris Management

Jill Johnson, RS  
Kim Nelson

Environmental Services Director  
Hazardous Waste Prog. Coordinator



# Overview

---

- All areas in Winona County received 9-17 inches of rain in 24 hours (A 2000 year rain event).
- Areas affected: St. Charles, Elba, Stockton, Goodview, Minnesota City, Rollingstone Township & low lying areas in the City of Winona
- 5 confirmed deaths
- 600 homes sustained substantial damage
- All told, 1552 homes applied for FEMA assistance

# Resources Pre-Flood

---

- Department staff consisting of a director (sanitarian), supervisor (sanitarian), two field sanitarians, two waste management specialists, two support staff & one part-time HHW assistant
- A 3717 sq. foot Household Hazardous Waste Facility (that was 3/4 full)
- No local landfill
- 2 private transfer site (1 MSW and 1 demo only)
- 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton pick up truck



# Initial Response

---



# Initial HHW Response

- MPCA staff coordinated volunteers from other agencies
- Decision was made to have residents place HHW curbside
- Flyer was developed & distributed to residents re: proper segregation at curb
- MPCA staff worked with waste contractor to schedule facility pick up



# Methods of Collecting Waste

- County staff & volunteers picked up waste curbside in affected areas.
- Also had collection points in St. Charles (City Maintenance Shop) & Stockton (City Pavilion).
- Residents could also bring their waste to the HHW facility.



# HHW Facility – 4 days post flood



# HHW Waste Totals

■ Latex paint	5,400 lbs.
■ Oil Base Paint	7,700 lbs.
■ Pesticides	1,114 lbs.
■ Bases	632 lbs.
■ Acids	437 lbs.
■ Flammables	2,739 lbs.
■ Solvents	2,000 lbs.
■ Aerosols	1,188 lbs.
■ Dioxins	4 lbs.
■ Paint Debris	389 lbs.



Total Collected: 11  
tons!!

# HHW from Rushford

- As the regional facility, Rushford waste came through us.
- County staff & volunteers collected & packed waste for 3 days.
- Collected 10 tons of waste!
- Large volumes of usable product.



# Lessons Learned

---

Avoid the initial urge to respond without having a coordinated plan in place!!

- Know how you will handle the waste & make sure you have adequate staff/volunteers.
- If you have limited resources, suspend facility operations for a few days to focus solely on getting flood waste sorted & packed.

# Lessons Learned

---

- Informational flyer needed to be distributed sooner. Many residents started removing items from home with little or no separation.
- Communications nightmare—no cell phone service in many areas.
- Talk to residents! Appreciated being kept informed of collection activities & embraced the personal contact.

# Lessons Learned

---

- During collection activities, choose your transport containers carefully & make more of an effort to better sort the waste.
  - Using gaylord boxes are not the best collection method. Inside containers were broken & leaking. Too hard to reach the items towards the bottom.
  - Had totes that contained both acids & bases. Two different volunteers were exposed to a chemical reaction when sewerage.

# Thank you!!

We could not have done it without your support:

---

MPCA staff

The counties of:

Rice	Freeborn
Scott	La Crosse
Lyon	Dodge
Olmsted	Blue Earth
Goodhue	Fillmore
Wabasha	Houston

Your hard work and commitment to the safety and health of the residents in this area was second to none!!

# Services 2007 Flood Response



# Initial Response

---

- Contact EOC at 2:00 a.m. –August 19<sup>th</sup>
- 8:00 a.m. August 19<sup>th</sup> –arrive at EOC
- Contact staff to begin operations – check landfill property
- Determined necessary procedures
- Meet with officials – Governor Pawlenty, state representatives and local officials

# Emergency Authorizations

Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>

---

- County Board adopts resolution declaring State of Emergency
- Board authorizes ES Dept. to provide waste removal and disposal response

# Environmental Services

## Duties

---

- Attend EOC briefings
- Debris removal and disposal
- HHW, Electronics, White Goods, Tires
- Food, Beverage and Lodging Establishments
- Emergency shelters
- Pet issues
- Contaminated wells
- Mold issues
- Mosquito control and abatement
- Misc. – leaking fuel tanks, dead animals, phone call response

# Solid Waste Response

---

- Establish transfer sites
  - Winona/Goodview, Stockton, St. Charles, Lewiston, Private owned sites in Winona



# Transfer Site Issues

---

- Suitable location/adequate traffic flow/site security
- Need for quick contracts/required bonds & insurance
- Staffing
- Safety clothing/PPE
- Site safety plan
- Conditional use permit
- Hold harmless agreements
- Documentation (photos, hauler tickets, sworn statements)
- Weather (extreme heat)
- Bee stings
- Handwashing/porta-potty
- Meals
- Dust
- Concrete
- Site closure

# Community Roll Off Boxes

---



# Community Roll Off Box Issues

---

- Contracts for roll offs (supply vs. demand)
- Contracts for loading (debris at right of way or curb only for FEMA reimbursement)
  - Traffic control issues
- Curbside separation of HHW, electronics, etc.
- Education of residents (individual contact, press releases)

# FEMA Issues

---

- At curb or right of way
- Documentation
- Contracts/Quotes/Equipment Rental with operator
- Emergency Debris Management Site Certification Forms
- Debris Management Plan (FEMA Debris Management Guide on website)
- FEMA Public Assistance Program Environmental Consideration and Contacts (first meeting)
- Reimbursement/Project Worksheets

# Other Considerations

---

- Emergency response structure/NIMS
- Financials/Separate codes/SWM tax
- Staff time (account for job tasks)
- Communication problems (cell phone coverage)
- Staff burn out

# Statistics

---

- Debris collection, loading and disposal costs including (HHW, electronics, white goods, tires)  
\$904,286
- Flood debris: 5,834 tons
- White goods: 236 tons
- Electronics: 23 tons
- HHW: 11 tons
- Goodview/Winona Transfer Site (Aug. 22-Sept. 21) 1330 loads
- Staff hours: 2,211

# Continued Debris Clean Up

---

- Debris Removal Grant
  - Demolition of homes/structures
  - Farm field and property debris removal
- Mn. DNR Stream Debris Removal Grant
- Hazard Mitigation Plan (Property Acquisition)

# Conclusions

---

- Be involved with your emergency operations planning
- Know agency contacts and resources
- Be flexible
- Communications systems need to cover entire area
- Become familiar with solid waste haulers, contractors, transfer facilities
- Work closely with county attorney for quick turnaround time on legal contracts (could potentially have these done ahead of time)
- Small agencies need to cross train staff

# Thank You

---

- Winona County ES staff
- MPCA staff
- MDH staff
- Olmsted Co. staff
- Brown-Nicollet Co. staff
- Waseca/Le Sueur Co. staff
- Waste haulers, contractors, facility operators
- Volunteers

Would you keep  
getting  
**70 mpg?**



JAMAR

DOUG FERGUSON MOTORS























WINONA COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH



TETANUS SHOTS  
HERE


















← ONE WAY

LOOTERS  
WILL BE  
SHOT  
.....

PAW

TODAY MAY NOT  
BE OK...  
BUT IT'S GOING   
TO BE ALRIGHT!

