



**WELLNESS NOW**

# **Oklahoma City-County Health Department Response to the May 20, 2013 Tornado**





**WELLNESS NOW**

# Overview of the Day

## May 21, 2013

### " 8:00-8:30

- " Received a phone call from our director advising our inspectors to look into the areas in southern Oklahoma County and check for damage

### " 8:30-9:00

- " Sectioned off areas and contacted our inspectors to begin the day "in the field" to inspect damage
- " Contacted two other inspectors to help inspectors with areas most impacted
- " Contacted OSDH to prepare a statement together
- " Contacted ODEQ water quality division to see if there was a boil order in affect

### " 9:00 -10:00

- " emailed the emergency response protocol to the Oklahoma Restaurant Association for our licensed facilities , residences, and schools to follow
- " Discussed with OKC Public Schools the need to not release the kids for the day
- " Sent responses to the switchboard and our clerical to handle the mass number of calls ( it had to be revised twice as changes were made so our message would remain accurate)
- " Schools were the priority despite the other licensed facilities and street vendors



**WELLNESS NOW**

# **Initial issues before 10:00 am**

1. School toilets wouldn't flush and were filling up with feces
2. Schools were open without water or very low water pressure- no way to serve food
3. Teachers and parents calling wanting us to close the schools and to begin sending the children home
4. Some children didn't have a home anymore or have water service at home either



**WELLNESS NOW**

# Overview Continued

## May 21, 2013

### " 11:00-12:00

- " Found issues with school toilets and finding "the person" that would be able to handle this problem. After several calls I found that person.
- " Our pool coordinator sent out the protocol for pools to drain due to the oil & insulation in the pools

### " 12:30

- " Began getting calls back from our inspectors in the field and contacted the media with an update

### " 1:00

- " Sent the list of schools from teachers union from Channel 4 to OKC schools to address issues
- " 12 of the schools were bad and needed immediate attention email received back
- " 1:30 summary report requested for our director to summarize the day

### " 3:30

- " Water began to work again and pressure was building in other licensed establishments





WELLNESS NOW

# Early Afternoon issues

- 1. 11:30 am-** News channels were beginning to call and wanted to interview today ASAP related to restaurants opening without water or with low water pressure.
- 2. 11:46 am-** Someone from OKC Public Schools sent out an interview to the entire OKC Public School System that the water was not safe to drink and that the water had to be boiled before hand washing or use.



WELLNESS NOW

# Overview Continued

## May 21 & 22, 2013

" 4:30

" Sent summary obtained from inspectors to Cynthia McGough (PIO)

" 5:30-8:30

" Worked a code enforcement workshop for the city of OKC and addressed some of these issues and questions with the general public.

" 9:00 am day two

" meeting on the event at main office a total of 214 licensed places were affected. Conducted a radio debriefing

" 9:30

" Contacted all inspectors (text) to recheck and report back by 1:00 pm the days afternoon meeting



**WELLNESS NOW**

# Overview Continued

## May 22, 2013

**" 11:20**

- " First inspector called in and said they were wrapping up and coming back to office
- " One of our inspectors reported seeing Anderson Cooper eating BBQ at one of our facilities so they were glad that they asked that facility to close and correct before opening the day before.

**" 1:40**

- " Received summary from all inspectors and sent report to Phil and Cynthia

**" 2:00**

- " Planning meeting

**" 4:30**

- " Dropped level and removed from emergency status



WELLNESS NOW

# Assessing Public Health Risks

## 5/21/2013

- “ Thanks to news reports and numerous complaints that we received during the morning it was clear that power and water had not been restored to businesses over night.
- “ But we needed to know which food service establishment had been impacted and exactly how they were impacted in order to address the situation.



WELLNESS NOW

# The Consumer Protection's Public Health Action Plan

- “ Inspectors were briefed and given the task of canvassing a 3-5 mile section of South West OKC. This occurred for 48 hours
- “ Inspectors would keep track of which establishments were closed and which were open/reopening.
- “ Any food service establishment found resuming operation in an impact zone were given a brief focused inspection to ensure they were serving a safe product.



# What did we look for?

## WELLNESS NOW

Inspectors made sure that food service establishments were not operating with any of the following conditions:

- “ Serving TCS Foods effected by prolonged power loss
- “ No running water/low water pressure,
- “ Flooding
- “ Severe structural damage.





**WELLNESS NOW**





# What did we look for?

## WELLNESS NOW

- “ Restaurant managers were asked if they suffered power or water pressure loss, how long, what did they do to ensure that they were serving a safe product.
- “ If it was found that food had been or is unable to be handled in a safe/approved manor the establishment was closed until it could safely resume operations
- “ Any unsafe food was discarded.





## WELLNESS NOW





WELLNESS NOW



[occhd.org](http://occhd.org)

LIVING FORWARD>>>



WELLNESS NOW

## What we Found

“ The majority of Food service establishments were found to have been in compliance with the food code. And had an emergency action plan in place which involved self closing or had moving food to freezers at other restaurant locations or to refrigerated trucks.





# What we Found

## WELLNESS NOW

- “ Unfortunately, in many cases food service establishments were found to be selling TCS foods that had been out of temperature longer than 48 hours. These include items such as fish, poultry, beef, fish, shellfish, & milk/dairy.
- “ The most common type of food service establishment that food safety issues were found in was convenience stores.
- “ The most common temperature abused TCS foods were milk/dairy, raw eggs, and deli meat.



## WELLNESS NOW





## WELLNESS NOW







WELLNESS NOW

# Why did establishments serve potentially hazardous food?

- “ Some food service establishments were not insured and the cost of replacing their TCS food was too high.
- “ Several food service establishment owners/managers voiced that they thought because a natural disaster happened that food safety regulations would no longer be enforced.
- “ All of the owners/managers I spoke with who were selling time temperature abused foods said they wanted to beat other businesses to reopen in order to profit off of relief and media workers that were coming into the area.



# Non-Food Issues

## WELLNESS NOW

- “ Several non-food related public Health issues were found to have stemmed from the May tornadoes.
- “ Debris from the tornado resulted increased complaints about:
  - “ delayed trash pick up
  - “ Foul odors from deceased animals/pets
  - “ An increase of flies, roaches, and rodents and other vectors such as mosquitoes.
  - “ creeks and rivers were clogged with debris resulting in flooding of homes and multifamily dwellings after heavy rains.





## WELLNESS NOW





WELLNESS NOW

# How An Emergency Response Works

- “ In most cases Incident Command System(ICS) is implemented.
- “ The severity and magnitude of the event determines the response.
- “ Damage assessment and communications are critical.
- “ Pre planning and partnerships will determine your level of success.



# Response Planning

## WELLNESS NOW

- “ Responses are run by the local Emergency Manager. If you do not have a relationship you are already behind.
- “ The Emergency Manager should already know your ability and capacity. These should be incorporated into the local Emergency Response plan.



# Set The Stage

## WELLNESS NOW

- “ The possibility of Severe Weather has been anticipated for several days. Most entities are on high alert .
- “ Kids are still in school, it is late in the afternoon and getting close to drive time for most people.
- “ The tornado touches down South west of Oklahoma City. It is an EF5 with wind speeds in excess of 300 MPH. Only a storm shelter or safe room are acceptable cover.
- “ The news media is telling people to go underground or get out of the way.
- “ The tornado plows through South Oklahoma City and Moore. All infrastructure is destroyed or inoperable.



# Response

## WELLNESS NOW

“ This is immediately a search and recovery operation. Whole neighborhoods and 3 schools take a direct hit. I-35 in Moore is strewn with cars and debris. People have driven directly into the tornado path. People taking shelter in a local convenience store are killed while taking shelter there. Moore Hospital is decimated. Many children are killed at Plaza Towers elementary.

















WELLNESS NOW



**neighborhood**



**WELLNESS NOW**



## Moore Hospital



WELLNESS NOW



## Neighborhood between Eastern and Broadway





## WELLNESS NOW



Medical facilities GIS mapped



**WELLNESS NOW**



## Medical Emergency Response Center



WELLNESS NOW



## Mobile vaccination station





WELLNESS NOW



## Fire/ Health Department strike team



WELLNESS NOW

Ms. Sandy Coachman  
Federal Coordinating Officer  
Disaster Recovery Manager  
FEMA DHS JFO @  
7000 Crossroads, Suite 5000  
Oklahoma City, OK 73149

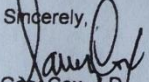
Re: Declaration of Public Health Nuisance and  
FEMA Assistance for Emergency Debris Removal  
from Private and Public Property

Dear Ms. Coachman:

I am writing to inform you that as a direct consequence of the May 20, 2013 severe storms and tornadoes in the state of Oklahoma, a public health emergency exists and has existed since May 20, 2013, and continues to exist in Oklahoma City which was declared to be a Major Disaster Area by Order of the President of the United States per Presidential Disaster Declaration (DR-4117 Oklahoma Severe Storms and Tornadoes). Further, the significant debris caused by the outbreak is an immediate threat to the public's health and safety.

In this Declaration of Public Health Nuisance, I specifically refer to debris containing dead or infected animals or animals acting as vectors of disease; debris causing buildings, yards, premises or places to be or become menaces to the public health; debris containing insanitary clothing, bedding, furniture, vehicles, containers, receptacles, appliances and equipment; and debris containing unwholesome or decayed or infected meat, fish, fruits or other food or food stuffs, medicines, prescriptions, beverages or drinking water which are or are likely to become a menace to public health.

Wherever such debris exists, it constitutes a nuisance menacing public health and should be abated. I have made this determination pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Oklahoma Emergency Management Act, 63 O.S. (Supp. 2013) Section 683.11, et seq. and as the local health officer for the City of Oklahoma City in accordance with Oklahoma City Municipal Code 2010, Chapter 23, Article 11, Section 23-16 et seq. and Chapter 15, Article 111, Section 15-36 et seq. and other laws of the State of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,  
  
Gary Cox, J.D.  
Executive Director

## Emergency Declaration





WELLNESS NOW



## Medical Reserve Corps



WELLNESS NOW



Staging area



WELLNESS NOW



## Food and Donations for Workers and Residents





WELLNESS NOW



## Blue Cross Caring Vans for Tetanus



WELLNESS NOW



**Here to serve**



WELLNESS NOW



Convenience store



WELLNESS NOW

# Health Department Functions after a Tornado Touchdown

- “ Ensure Public Safety; food, water, vectors
- “ Advise the public ;schools ,businesses, municipalities, general public
- “ Help coordinate volunteers
- “ Tetanus vaccination and other public safety items.
- “ Assist Emergency Management
- “ Medical system tracking and help in the MERC