



SPRINGFIELD – GREENE COUNTY

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Date: 11/14/2011

Dear Greene County resident:

Springfield and Greene County officials responded in large numbers to assist our neighbors in Joplin during their devastating tornado event. Public safety officials, health department officials, public information officers, building inspectors, and others worked hard to assist them. We know that if we should experience anything remotely similar, they would be here to assist our friends and family.

We often will read of disastrous events from around the country and the world to learn of practices that worked or did not work well. The catastrophic Joplin tornado, so close to home, presents Greene County with a very rare opportunity to use lessons learned from Joplin's experience. Local officials have worked hard to capture some of these best practices.

One of the major lessons learned was the challenge of getting official, accurate information out to everyone in the area, especially those directly impacted. This is an extremely difficult task in a chaotic environment of disaster response. Joplin officials worked endlessly to meet this challenge. We felt similar challenges in our area during the January 2007 ice storm and we have worked to improve our processes. Since then, several new information sources have evolved, particularly with the growth of social media. It is the goal of Springfield and Greene County officials to build on this lesson once more.

Enclosed you will find several tools to assist you and your family to 1) know what to do after a disaster and 2) where to find information. The information card lists where you can access verified, official information by phone, websites, Facebook, Twitter, and radio. If you have access to the Internet, we encourage bookmarking or joining the list sites *before* the next disaster event. There also is the opportunity on the card to list additional information you specifically might need following a disaster.

It is our goal to flood the community with official, accurate information among all potential avenues available. It is our hope that everyone will prepare their own information in a disaster and share that pertinent information with your family, friends, or neighbors so you can help check on each other's well-being under emergency circumstances.

We hope you will continue, or begin, making disaster preparation efforts for you and your family on a regular basis. We want to thank the sponsors listed below for their assistance with this project.

The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management works everyday to prepare and protect our community; we urge you to take a few minutes to review and use this information so that we are stronger as a community to face the potential challenges if a natural or man-made disaster occurs here.

Sincerely,

Ryan Nicholls
Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management

