

Special Single Issue Edition: **Rural Water Emergency Response**

Hermine Impact in Florida Update: Gary Williams, Executive Director of Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA), reported on Saturday:

“As of last night, we have deployed almost all of the emergency response equipment we FRWA/FlaWarn have. You can see the [report and deployed equipment tab](#) attached. Everything went out full of fuel, conductor wire, and tabs on GPS locators activated. Fuel could become a concern in a couple days if power remains off at stations with diesel fuel. Systems along the coast continue to struggle maintaining water pressure with wash out of lines, leaks, etc. – but they are all partially or fully operational. We were able to return most back to acceptable pressure yesterday; however, many are on Boil Water Notice. We will continue assisting utilities over the weekend. We haven't had additional or unmet requests as of this morning. We will update reports, equipment and any additional requests ASAP. Thanks for everyone's efforts and help.”

On Thursday, Williams reported:

“FRWA/FlaWarn equipment is being staged near predicted impact zone. I expect a lot of power outages. It has been dry up here for over a week so ground not saturated and roots of big trees are not already in wet ground to cause whole trees to topple and pull out water and sewer lines. We are staging at FRWA office with emergency power supply and should be up and running either way and have computer and communication abilities including satellite phones, two way radios, etc. We have FRWA travel trailer for emergency responder personnel available for deployment. We currently have three large generators out in the field (150 kW generator in St. John's County, 80 kW generator in Holly Hill and 65 kW at Alligator Point which could be ground zero). We have two smaller generators with VFD's in Pasco County and Trenton. We have seventeen large generators and eight smaller ones with VFD's ready in the warehouse. We also have two 6" bypass pumps and three 4" trash pumps. FRWA will utilize our local staff to perform damage assessments, refer to SOP for damage assessment forms, and provide assistance. Additionally, we may have technical staff from around Florida rotate in to assist and relieve local folks if response continues for past 3-4 days. FRWA's SOP is to have daily reports/assessments to the office by 4:00 pm each day.”

Louisiana Flood Update: Pat Creduer, Executive Director of Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA), reported on Saturday:

“The LRWA/LAWARN staff has helped approximately 97 utilities that had been placed on ‘Boil Water Notices.’ Each day for the last two weeks, the ‘Emergency Response Teams’ have traveled to the impacted utilities to assist in reestablishing water service and disinfecting to remove boil water notices. We have found that many utilities will have to rebuild their sewer treatment plants because flood waters have totally damaged the facility. LRWA’s Circuit Rider and Energy Conservation staffs are assisting these wastewater systems with rehabilitating their treatment facilities. LRWA continues to offer assistance with the Department of Health and Department of Environmental Quality with any water or wastewater problems. Currently, our staff is out of emergency response mode. But we will continue to visit the utilities in the devastated areas.” LRWA was assessing every impacted water utility day-by-day during the flooding to perform triage and target technical assistance ([LRWA disaster tracking assessment](#)).

Why So Few Hurricanes? Hermine is the first hurricane to hit the U.S. in ten years. PBS analyzes the reason while considering the warming of climate and oceans. Experts explain that contrary to popular understanding, climate change models don’t predict more frequent hurricanes, but rather more intense storms. Further explanation shows that current climate models don’t predict short term weather changes such as what may occur over the next decade ([PBS](#)).

Rebuilding Joplin, Missouri Five Years After Tornado “Leveled” It: On Friday, PBS featured a segment on the recovery of Joplin, a city which has a larger population now than before the tornado as well as 5 new state-of-the-art schools, 2,000 new homes, a new sewer system, a new electrical grid, etc. ([PBS](#)). Missouri Rural Water Association (MRWA) provided immediate technical assistance to Joplin’s water supply on Sunday, May 22, 2011. MRWA’s [“Disaster in Joplin”](#) report explains the relief option including the following summary:

A brief survey of damage showed the majority of Joplin did not have power or water and that one of the main wells was not operating. MRWA dispatched nine staff to the area, immediately cleaning debris away from Well #7 so that a generator could be hooked up to the well. By late afternoon, Well # 7 was back on-line. Over the next three days, from dawn to dark, MRWA employees assessed thousands of homes where each one represented a water leak, identified meters covered by debris including wrecked cars and trees without any identifiable marking and without any maps for locating them, identified valve box locaters, dispatched backhoes to remove debris, provided assistance at the water treatment plant, water

tower, and booster pump station, installed a temporary roof at the clear well to prevent contamination, removed a large tree so that a crane could be moved in to repair structural damage to the tower, used chain saws to cut up and remove the trees so that a generator could be installed, walked city blocks to locate countless water leaks of destroyed homes, discovered major water leaks and shut off mains, etc. On day four, MRWA staff assisted with an emergency water connection to the temporary hospital and restored water pressure to the remainder of Joplin.

National Rural Water Association

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