

Operation Weather Survival

Minutes for July 16, 2008

Attending: Debbie Fagin, Kelli McCurdy, Anneliese Stoever, Julia Allen, Sue Rundblad, Colleen Beckwith, Jackie Hutchinson, John Vincenzo, Pat Ferrell, Jim Kramper, Cindy Riordan, Kelli McCurdy, Nichole Krafve, Ellen Sherman, Rich Krueger, Gloria Thirdkill, Chelsie Harmon, Becky White

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Weather Report

Jim Kramper reported the weather. For the short term outlook, statistically we should be at our hottest weather this week, on Wednesday and Thursday. So far, no advisories have been issued or look to be issued, but the weather will be reviewed each day. The highs are expected to be around 95 degrees, with the weather expected to be cooler on Friday and Saturday. Monday and Tuesday there will be thunderstorms and cooler weather. For the long term outlook (through September), the Midwest is in a "No Man's Land", meaning that there are equal chances for above normal weather, below normal weather, or normal weather. It has not been overly hot throughout the mid-west, but the mid July to early August is the hottest time of year. OWS reviewed the changed heat index and excessive heat index criteria which will result in an increase in the number of weather advisories and warnings. Temperature data is being reviewed back to 2002 or 2003 to compare Blair and Lambert Field to see just how much warmer it is in the Urban Corp (guessing 2-5 degrees). Jim Kramper shared an article about a study done by Andreas Sterl, stating that Heat Waves of the future will be much worse.

III. Energy reports

HDC: Jackie stated that HDC is spending their money quickly. They expect to run out of money before the end of the Summer (sometime mid-August) due to the sheer numbers of people applying. Winter funds are available October 1 for Seniors, and November 1st for all other people. Expect more Dollar More funds. Even if seniors (65 is the official age) do not have a threat of disconnection, HDC will take applications for summer assistance funds and seniors should apply early. HDC has no Cool Down money. Younger persons with disabilities (or anyone other than seniors) qualify if they have a threat of disconnection and are at 125% of poverty or \$1,083/per month for a single person. Disability is defined as receiving SSD, SSI, military disability benefits, railroad disability benefits(any official government disability), or a blind pension.

CAA: CAASTL requests that persons have a threat of disconnection or final bill for persons of any age. CAASTL can only assist up to \$300. However, if there is a very high bill and the \$300 has to meet the minimum payment amount, CAASTL will not be able to pay it because AmerenUE will not accept it. With Dollar More, if the client has not received Dollar More previously this year, a client can receive up to \$600. Rich stated that the Dollar More amount is limited and might be gone by this time next week.

Debbie stated that United Way will leverage up to \$200 of agency money (no criteria) through a partner agency EFN or OWS member as long as the \$200 will get them reconnected or keep them from being disconnected. Debbie will e-mail all OWS agencies the application for leverage money. Debbie will want to know that the person can meet the bill the next month (if the monthly bill is larger than the person's income, the application will not be accepted). Rich said to remember weatherization programs. For anyone who has an income of 150% of the poverty level, folks are eligible for weatherization programs at CAASTL as well as Urban League. Rich will call Anneliese with the contact number. Anyone that attends the Energy Conservation class and has an income of 125% of the poverty level will receive 2 fans with educational material.

John with Home Services reminded us to disperse safe fan information, including: do not have a fan blowing in a closed in room; do not have a fan blowing on you when the temperature is over 95 degrees because it acts as a convection oven; use a fan in addition to air conditioning to keep cool and costs down. John stated that the value of the ceiling fan is that it will bring the cold air up and drop it back down on you. There's a button at the top, pull it down, if you stand under it and feel it blowing down it's correct.

John said Ameren has provided 100 new air conditioning units and Home Services has installed 20 units since last Monday. Home Services has 80 units left with 20 that have been cleaned and had their safety checked from previous years. Home Services is slowly receiving referrals this year due to the warm (not hot) weather. Four summer youths from SLATE started in July and will be with Home Services through August 25th. The program will continue through the end of September. The City of St. Louis has turned in a proposal to receive funding for 84 new units.

CAASTL has 10 air conditioners left as of the afternoon for seniors with medical conditions (they are fairly relaxed on the restrictions). Jefferson County health department has 5 air conditioners (from AmerenUE) left.

Salvation Army has 6 air conditioners left for the City.

- IV. Outreach
- A. Meet the Heat is going forward. Molly is working with the United Way on PSAs.
 - B. Brochures, magnets, and all of the educational materials are ready (brochures, magnets, posters, fliers, etc.).
 - C. Girl Scouts—Ameren has partnered with the Girl Scouts to do a Heat Buddy training. Anneliese suggested doing it for the senior centers.
 - D. Gloria will put the Meet the Heat information in the Laclede business office.
 - E. Media Packets will be going out before the end of this week.
 - F. Anneliese spoke about SLAAA's outreach regarding hot weather.

- G. At CAASTL they have energy conservation workshops every Tuesday and Thursday 9-11 and Wed. 1-3. Eligible persons will receive fans.
- H. Cooling Site list is completed and will be ready to go out as soon as we have an event (goes up on website). Kelli will forward information about Covenant House to Debbie.
- I. Flooding: Pat Ferrell of the Salvation Army spoke about her latest disaster relief effort. This was the 3rd disaster relief effort Pat's been involved with. Pat spoke about how the Lincoln County and Hannibal County areas are very rural with a strong belief in self sufficiency. This initially led to few requests for assistance. As time continued, more people asked for help. Their peak for 3 days was 12 families a day. She mentioned that most of the requests were for gas, food, and clean-up kits (4-6 at a time). FEMA bought the homes of some people who wanted to move out of the flood plain. Red Cross ended their fixed feeding the previous Sunday (they had provided shelter for 3 weeks). Salvation Army is continuing to provide support. The Humane Society also assisted. For a lot of towns the sand bagging made the difference in saving many houses. There were 7,000 calls from people that wanted to volunteer.

- V. Announcements: The Department of Treasury is doing a "Financial Access" pilot to get low income people connected with banks and financial institutions. Two fold: educate financial institutions and make low-income people feel comfortable using banks. There will be a organizing meeting on Wednesday, July 23rd at 10am where Naomi from the Department of Justice will discuss the project. If you have a list of people from Cahokia to invite, please let Jackie know.

- VI. **Next Meeting: August 19th at 2:30—conference call**