

**ROSEVILLE**  
**REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Date: October 14, 2013  
Item No.: 14.a

Department Approval

City Manager Approval



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Item Description: Update on June 21 Storm Recovery Efforts

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1 **BACKGROUND**

2 On June 21 the City of Roseville experienced a storm with high winds which caused damage  
3 throughout the City.

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5 Departments within the City responded to many emergency requests including several thousand  
6 downed trees and wide spread power outages.

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8 On June 22 the Roseville City Council declared an emergency declaration allowing for clean-up  
9 and extended response to community needs.

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11 This report will serve as a final report to council and the community on response, clean-up, and  
12 final costs associated with the emergency declaration.

13 **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

14 The total financial impacts of this storm is \$460,880.22

15 **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

16 Staff recommends council accept the storm report as presented.

17 **REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

18 Accept storm report as presented.

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# City of Roseville - Severe Weather

June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

# After Action Report



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## **Executive Summary**

On Friday, June 21, 2013 at approximately 7:40PM the City of Roseville and surrounding communities were struck with severe weather, producing straight-line winds and heavy downpours. The result of this storm was wide-spread damage throughout the city leaving approximately 70% of the city without power.

The Fire and Police Departments were the first to deal with the destruction. Both departments responded to hundreds of calls for service to assist citizens over the weekend. They were joined by members of the Public Works Department Friday night and Saturday to help remove trees and open roadways. All of the departments worked well together in an effort to restore the city back to a more functional state.

On the morning of Saturday, June 22, the Mayor and council members met with a number of the department heads and discussed the status of the city and what they felt was a reasonable response to the natural disaster the city had endured. A meeting of the city council was called to order and declarations were made to assist in the recovery efforts that were planned.

Communications were sent from the city to the citizens in a variety of methods and a storm hotline was established. On Monday, the city received a large number of calls from citizens wondering how to receive assistance. City staff handled this well and assisted people however they could.

A full damage assessment was conducted by the Public Works, which revealed that over 2,000 residents had been affected. In the months since that time, the Public Works and Parks Departments were very busy cleaning up the aftermath. The costs of the storms were in excess of \$400,000. Fortunately, this was lower than the originally estimated cost of \$500,000.

In conjunction with Ramsey County Emergency Management, it was discovered that the City of Roseville and Ramsey County as a whole did not meet the thresholds for federal reimbursement. Therefore the city must absorb the cost of the storm damage and cleanup.

All was not lost as the city departments in conjunction with the mayor and city council worked together to assist the citizens of Roseville in their time of need. This resulted in numerous thanks and complements from those we serve. It also enabled all of us to be more prepared when the next event affects the City of Roseville.

## **Incident Overview**

On Friday, June 21, 2013 at approximately 7:40PM the City of Roseville and surrounding communities were struck with severe weather, producing straight-line winds and heavy downpours. A contributing factor was that the ground was already saturated due to previous rainfall from storms that had passed through the area in the two weeks leading up to this storm. The storm produced heavy downpours and winds in excess of 70MPH. The result of this storm was wide-spread damage throughout the city leaving approximately 70% of the city without power.

## **Incident Response**

### **Fire Department**

The fire department was one of the first agencies to respond to the storm. Chief O'Neill had been monitoring the weather and requested an All-Call, which would bring firefighters into the station to standby for response. He requested this in a timely fashion hoping to have everyone that was available in the station approximately 15 minutes prior to the expected storm arrival. This would allow them to travel in safer conditions, hoping to avoid possible power line and trees down in the roadways.

The call for additional personnel resulted in 29 additional firefighters to the five that were already on staff. Those 34 firefighters were about to experience something that had not been seen in recent history within the City of Roseville. They staffed eight pieces of apparatus that responded to 54 calls within the first four and half hours after the storm struck. Most of the calls were for power lines down, trees blocking the roadways or on homes and garages. Firefighters secured the areas with tape, cones and barricades when available.

There was a report of a house fire on Friday night; however this was not the case when units arrived. The fire department also assisted Allina Health Paramedics in transferring patients that were at home and vent dependent. This was due to the power being out and the batteries running low in the backup power source for their ventilator. Firefighters also assisted stranded motorists that found themselves stuck in the rapidly rising flood waters.

Based on what was seen while responding to calls, Chief O'Neill made contact with interim city manager Pat Trudgeon and advised him of the situation. He also made contact with public works director Duane Schwartz to help coordinate crews and resources needed to clear city streets of debris to open the roadways.

When daylight broke on Saturday, there was a second surge in calls for response. This was most likely due to residents discovering what they had not seen due to the darkness of the

night. Additional staffing was again requested due to the high run volume. Crews continued to respond to similar calls as the night before. Additionally, there was a house fire due to a bad electrical feed coming in from the power lines. Excel Energy was immediately requested to the scene; however there was a significant delay due to them being overwhelmed with requests for service. Firefighters were able to keep the fire contained to the basement until the power was disconnected.

The Saturday day crew responded to 25 calls for service. This, accompanied with the overnight calls from Friday, pushed the call volume to over 80 calls for service in the first 24 hours. In total, there were an excess of 115 calls for service over the weekend. This was approximately a 450% increase in call volume over what the department usually responds to.

### **Police Department**

The police department also faced a surge of calls due to the storm damage. These calls were handled by the officers already on duty, with the assistance of reserve captain Houck and one additional reserve officer. The crew handled a total of 114 calls in the 12 hour shift. Eighty-nine of the calls came in before midnight on Friday.

The officers faced many of the same dangers that the firefighters faced that night. They communicated well within themselves and the other city departments. This included identifying areas that were completely impassible. This included 1910 County Road B, 1700 Count Road B2, the intersections of Hamline & Millwood, County Road C & 35W, Fairview & Oakcrest, Fairview & Hwy 36, Larpenteur & Fernwood, County Road C & Dale, and County Road C & Rice. Officers assisted in blocking off roads with barricades and cones. Officers also communicated with the Streets Department to determine which areas could be cleared first, and warned them of those areas which they needed to wait for the Xcel to first clear power lines.

### **Public Works**

Public Works had 10 people respond to the storm Friday evening. They assisted with clearing roads from tree damage with the use of chainsaws and a frontend loader. They also had seven lift stations and a booster station without power immediately after the storm. They were able to restore power to most of the stations in a timely fashion; however there were three lift stations without power that needed generator support throughout the weekend.

On Saturday, there were 17 employees working to continue to clear roads and return to areas that had been previously unsafe due to power lines down. There was a staff of five on Sunday until power was restored to all the lift stations.

Public works conducted a damage assessment over the weekend that revealed more than 2,000 properties with debris at the curb including city properties.

## **Park & Recreation**

There was significant damage to the city parks and golf course. They were called in to assess and clean up the damage on Saturday and Sunday. This included 5 full-time employees and four part-time employees.

There was an estimated 75-100 trees down on trails and significant areas in parks. The golf course had 10 trees down. Miraculously, there was no damage to any buildings. Adopt a park groups were utilized to assist in the pickup and hauling of small debris to the curb line.

## **Administration**

Interim city manager Pat Trudgeon helped to coordinate administrative staff to assist the other city departments. He also coordinated a meeting with the mayor, city council members and city staff.

Communications were sent from the city to the citizens in a variety of methods. This included postings on the city website as well as the Next Door email system. Press releases and email notifications were sent out on Saturday and throughout the next several weeks. News releases included information about the emergency declaration, what the city was going to do to help residents, disposal options, cleanup schedules and other information. The announcements also included information on consumer fraud, recycling options, how to contact insurers and tips for protecting trees.

Additionally, a storm hotline was established for citizens to call for assistance. On Monday, the city received a large number of calls from citizens wondering how to receive assistance. City staff handled this well and assisted people however they could.

## **Mayor and Council**

On Saturday, June 22, the Mayor and council members met with a number of department heads and Battalion Chief and Emergency Manager Greg Peterson to discuss the status of the city and what they felt was a reasonable response to the natural disaster that had taken place.

A situation report was given by each department representative. This included a synopsis of what emergency workers had responded to, and were continuing to respond to, as well as what

recovery efforts were already underway. The initial damage assessment was discussed as well as the prediction of the possible additional severe weather that could affect the city and its residents.

The discussion revealed the fact that the city had suffered a significant blow and there were significant expenditures that would be incurred in order to help clean up the city after the storm. The estimation was that there could be in excess of \$500,000 in costs to the city. At 1109, a meeting of the city council was called to order and declarations were made to assist in the recovery efforts that were planned.

### **Emergency Management**

Battalion Chief and Emergency Manager Greg Peterson made contact with Ramsey County Emergency Manager Judd Freed to let him know what the City of Roseville had endured and that a state of emergency had been declared so that additional funds could be used for recovery from the damage. Mr. Freed stated that he had not yet heard from any other cities within Ramsey County; however he would have his staff check with the other cities to better gauge the magnitude of the damage to county.

## **Incident Recovery**

The Public Works and Parks departments bore the bulk of the recovery efforts. Most of the work that was done was a result of the extensive number of trees that were down and the damage that they caused. Roads were cleared in a timely fashion so that emergency vehicles, home owners and contractors could make their way throughout the city to recover and restore what they could.

Public Works worked with other local officials to plan and prepare for a debris site. This was set up at the Ramsey County site off of Kent St. and Larpenteur. The storm debris was hauled to, and then processed by, contractors at this site. It was later hauled away to its final destination.

The Run and Roll for the Roses was scheduled for Saturday, the day after the storm hit. It had to be cancelled due to the dangerous conditions that existed in the parks. There were simply too many trees and power lines down to ensure the participants' safety.

Due to the widespread destruction, the parks department spent months cleaning up the storm damage. This included the removal of trees, branches and stumps that posed a hazard to the visitors of the parks. They coordinated with the Public Works department to haul the debris to the dump site. This process worked well and made for efficient overall operations.

Excel Energy was overwhelmed by the amount of damage that had taken place to their infrastructure. They refused to give estimated time of restoration of services, even to emergency workers. This caused frustration on many levels and caused for hazardous conditions throughout the city for many days. Things improved when workers from outstate were brought in to assist in the restoration of services.

## **Costs**

There were extensive costs that were incurred due to the storm. The Fire Department's total was \$4,155.74. This was the cost for labor only. The Police Department did not incur additional costs due to the storm. The Public Works and Parks departments however were not as fortunate. The Public Works Department bore the brunt of costs due to the extensive cleanup that was needed. Their labor costs were \$133,431.82. The Parks Department's labor costs were \$47,587.55. The combined total costs for the Public Works and Parks Departments were \$456,724.48. This includes labor and all other operational costs of the cleanup.

The overall cost of the storm was \$460,880.22. The departments worked together to minimize the overall financial impact to the city whenever possible. Despite this, there was a significant financial burden that the city suffered due to the storm.

In order to meet FEMA and state thresholds of reimbursement, we must meet certain criteria. The Stafford Act sets both state and county thresholds. These thresholds are based on a pre-determined legal formula that disaster damages must exceed. The formula uses population of the jurisdiction as determined in the last official U.S. Census which is then entered to multiply population by \$3.45 per capita for counties and \$1.37 per capita for the state. The 2010 Census for Ramsey County was  $508,640 \times 3.45 = \$1,754,808$ . The 2010 State of Minnesota Census =  $5,303,925 \times \$1.37 = \$7,266,377$ . While it was estimated that the state total damages from the June storms was over 7.5 million, Ramsey County did not exceed the required threshold. Thus we are not able to recover losses from the federal government.

## **Recommendations**

There were a few recommendations that came from the events of the storm and the cleanup afterward. One of them was that there are a number of 'storm chasers' that often enter cities to perform tree removal and roofing repair work. When putting out information for residents, we could include that the Housing Resource Center will send a representative out to residents homes to review these types of work bids and prices, and let residents know if the work descriptions appear correct and if the prices are in line. This is a free service provided Roseville residents through the Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Another suggestion was to have a plan on how to notify members of staff and council when the power goes out and/or cell phones no longer work. It is important that the numbers are available and up to date in both electronic and written format. They must also be readily available when in time of need.

The last recommendation that was received was to have legal analysis of whether we need to extend the emergency declaration until the end of our clean-up efforts in order to be able to continue to spend funds without the normal restrictions, and an analysis of whether we need to continue to have the normal restrictions waived as we go forward.

## **Conclusion**

The destruction from the storm that struck on June 21, 2013 has not been seen since the 1981 tornado. A significant contributing factor was the saturation of the ground prior to the storm passing through. The result of the storm was widespread damage throughout the city. This resulted in hundreds of calls for assistance from Roseville citizens.

The Fire and Police departments were the first on scene and did an admirable job of working in dangerous conditions. They were joined later in the evening by personnel from the Public Works department to clear streets and begin opening up the roadways. In the coming weeks, the Public Works and Parks department remained busy cleaning up the storm's aftermath.

While no emergency goes perfectly, the response and recovery efforts to this storm went well. The city departments, as well as the mayor and council, were caring and responsive to the citizens needs. After the emergency phase subsided, efforts were in place to assure the continuity of government and services. This was despite the fact that many of those who responded and assisted were personally affected by the storm.

We are fortunate it was not even worse. It would have been if the severe weather had struck again as it was forecasted. It gave us all an opportunity to work together for a common cause and refine our skills on how to handle such an event. Learning has taken place on many levels. Because of this, we are now better prepared to handle the next event that affects the City of Roseville.