

CITY OF LUBBOCK

REPORT TO CITIZENS

BY

MAYOR JAMES H. GRANBERRY

May 15, 1970

11:30 a.m.

Agencies involved with the City of Lubbock during emergency operations:

Office of Emergency Preparedness	Department of Interior
HUD	Red Cross
Small Business Administration	Salvation Army
Federal Housing Administration	Department of Public Safety
Bureau of Public Roads	Lubbock County
Texas Highway Department	U. S. Weather Bureau
Department of Agriculture	United Fund
National Office of Civil Defense	Texas Employment Commission
Corps of Engineers	National Guard
4th Army	U. S. Army and Navy Reserves
U. S. Public Health Service	Texas Tech
State Health Department	Other cities and counties in
Reese Air Force Base	Texas and New Mexico

Debris Clearance:

Debris clearance is moving along with City forces, Texas Highway Department, the 4th Army, and U. S. Army Reserves.

Presently involved in debris clearance: 275 pieces of equipment and 500 men. Texas Highway Department equipment and personnel will be "phased out" after today, and Corps of Engineers will assume full responsibility for debris clearance.

Debris is being disposed of at Southeast Dump Site, and presently we are making arrangements for additional dumping space outside the City.

Security:

Devastated downtown area was secure Monday night soon after the tornado struck.

Security is being maintained by City Police, DPS, and National Guard.

The plan is to continue to "pull" security into tighter circle daily as other buildings are secured. This will gradually open the restricted

area, and at the present time security is being maintained within the stricken area. The following are being used for security:

National Guard - total of 431 men.

Department of Public Safety - total of 100-plus men in addition to local complement

Security for Country Club area:

5 - Police vehicles

National Guard - 8 men and 5 vehicles.

Guadalupe Area:

4 - Police vehicles

National Guard - 10 men and 6 vehicles.

Others assisting in security include officers from Brownfield; Plainview; Clovis, New Mexico; and Tucumcari, New Mexico.

Power:

Both Lubbock Power & Light and Southwestern Public Service facilities were hit hard by tornado damage. Crews have worked around the clock since Monday and continue to do so in restoring service.

Approximately 90% of service has been restored by Lubbock Power & Light, and some additional areas will be placed into service today. Stand-by generators are being provided critical locations where power is "out", and 4th Army is flying in 10 additional generators to Lubbock today.

Telephones:

30,000 were out

17,000 were back in service by Tuesday morning

6,000 are still out as of today (Friday, May 15)

The areas of Guadalupe, Municipal Hill and the Airport could be out of service for sometime because of the cable being out.

Every available man in West Texas with the telephone company is on the job in Lubbock.

Housing:

Those who were left homeless have been provided immediate shelter and food at Municipal Coliseum. Red Cross and Salvation Army have provided food not only to those at the coliseum, but have maintained mobile canteens in the field.

For example, Red Cross sheltered 1,200 persons in the Coliseum and many others were sheltered in Texas Tech dormitories.

Food was served at the Broadway Church of Christ, the Coliseum, by catering units, and by 10 large field kitchens. When residents would not leave the Guadalupe area, canteens with bi-lingual operators were dispatched and broadcast continuously on bull-horns. 2,300 were fed, and mobile catering trucks continue to serve the area.

Donations are too numerous to mention: food, clothing, family counseling. Hot meals are being served in two locations.

Disaster teams of Red Cross are here from all over Texas. Dozens of trained volunteers from the West Texas area are here. Many, many churches of all denominations are helping. The administrative unit of Red Cross is now organizing for the major job of Red Cross...that of individual and family rehabilitation.

The Salvation Army has received 8 tons of food; 20 tons of clothing; one ton of bedding. They have provided canteens, volunteers and their professional staff, and plan to maintain services as needed and keep their personnel available for service. They plan to continue their welfare assistance to all disaster-affected persons.

The FHA is providing 450 repossessed houses in Northeast Lubbock, and also some apartments for immediate relocation of the homeless. As of today, 309 families have been relocated to these houses, and an additional 112 families have been processed for moving to these quarters. Transportation is being provided, and trucks are moving these families to the relocation area.

This operation continues to move along, and additional needs for instant relocation are being evaluated today.

Public Health:

The U. S. Public Health Service is overseeing all phases of public health operations in the disaster area. They will continue to handle public health problems as they develop along with State Health Department and City-County Health Department personnel, and others on the scene.

The water supply was restored quickly after the storm struck and public health problems with water and sewage were precluded.

Public health activity also involves inspection of all food damaged in warehouses, supermarkets and other public facilities prior to use by the public of salvaged items.

Mayor James H. Granberry proposed a resolution be passed at a meeting later on in the day to form a Citizens Advisory Commission for Long Range Rehabilitation. This Commission will be comprised of men and women from all sections of our City, and will consist of Mexican-American, black and white representatives. The Mayor suggested nine people be chosen for membership.

The Commission members will be chosen by the same method as the members of the City Boards and Commissions are chosen, by mutual consent of the Council. They will be chosen from all professions for a "people-to-people" campaign to study zoning, neighborhoods, parks, slum prevention and industrial parks.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that the Office of Emergency Preparedness was organizing a one-stop people-to-people information center with bi-lingual workers. Representatives from the city, state, and federal agencies that provide aid to the people would be available. He also requested that the Office of Emergency Preparedness put together a pamphlet or folder which tells the citizen what will be available and where to find it. This information will also be written in bi-lingual form.

Carl Gidlund from Washington, D. C., the White House Press representative assigned to us here in the City of Lubbock has said that 500-plus people from all over the United States are here or on the way as a result of the City's request through the Governor's office to President Nixon.

Mayor Granberry stated that a great job was being done by Hastings in directing this vast federal assistance effort, and that the public response was overwhelming.

The Mayor also commended the citizens of Lubbock for their wonderful job in cooperating during this time of emergency, and that a tour would be provided on Sunday, May 17, for those who wished to view the areas hardest hit by the tornado. The travel route will be marked, and maps will be provided for the public. The media is urged to help get the word to the citizens on the tour.

Sunday, May 17, was proclaimed as a Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving.

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