

Disaster in Anytown—Initial Damage Assessment

Hurricane John came ashore in Anytown at 7:45 a.m. on June 1, 2015. At approximately 3:00 p.m. after the high winds subsided, water utility officials (working with local Emergency Operations Center [EOC] officials) conducted initial damage assessments and safety reports.

Utility officials and members of Anytown's damage assessment team reviewed monitoring data on the utility's computer systems to determine what percentage of pump stations were offline, the approximate number of service interruptions, type and location of critical care sites affected, and impact of interruption on public health and safety.

A damage assessment team visited off-line pump stations and suspected water main breaks to determine if debris removal was needed before repairs could begin, or if the location of the pump station and water main was completely destroyed. This information was transmitted to the local EOC for its review.

The initial damage assessment showed that all residents of Anytown were without water and sewer service. There were several large water main breaks, the water tower that services the city was destroyed during the storm, and the wastewater treatment facility sustained major damage. All of the information was documented with photologs and on initial damage assessment forms. Public health and safety are at risk.