

EPA Federal Green Challenge

Webinar: From Fires to Floods and Everything In Between

How Federal Facilities Can Thrive in an Era of Billion Dollar Weather Events

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Webinar topic: Tornadoes



Tornadoes

Personal Experience

"Weather Aware"

- Prepare

Pictures

GSA Facilities

Federal Buildings

Leases

Pictures

Natural Disaster Support

GSA is Primary Coordinator of Emergency Support Function #7 – Logistics Annex



Tornadoes



Why this extreme weather event topic is important to GSA in Oklahoma and other states where tornadoes are common (tornado alley).

They have a significant impact on people and property, taking lives and costing billions in damage.

Are You Prepared?

- **Be weather aware**
- **Have a weather radio**
- **Have a plan in place of where to shelter**



Tornado Safety Tips

Practice and Prepare

Know where you'll meet your family during the tornado (and after). Practice a tornado drill annually. Keep a weather radio in your storm shelter, along with safety supplies.

Seek Shelter

Go to your basement, a small interior room, or under stairs on the lowest floor of the house. If you live in a mobile home, get out and look for a stable building. If outside, find low ground—away from trees and cars—and lie face down with your arms protecting your head.

After the Storm

Stay away from downed power lines, and avoid flooded areas—power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Don't enter seriously damaged buildings and avoid using matches and lighters in case of gas leaks.

Know the Signs

Look for swirling clouds.

Watch for quick wind shifts or stark calm after heavy rain.

Listen for a loud roar or rumble that doesn't fade.



When a tornado threatens, remember these basic guidelines:

GET IN - get as far inside a strong building
as you can, away from doors and windows

GET DOWN - get to the lowest floor

COVER UP - use whatever you can to
protect yourself from flying or falling
debris

Below Ground Storm Shelter



In Ground



Above Ground "Safe Room"



May 3, 1999 Tornado Moore, Oklahoma

- EF5 (301 mph)
- Highest wind speed ever recorded globally
- 36 fatalities
- \$1 Billion in damage





May 20, 2013 Tornado Moore, Oklahoma

- EF5 (210 mph)
- 24 Fatalities
- Hit two elementary schools
 - Briarwood
 - Plaza Towers
- \$2 Billion in damage

Plaza Towers Elementary School

Before



Near Oklahoma City

5:17 PM

KFOR

After



May 2010 Tornado Choctaw, Oklahoma



- EF4 (166-200 mph)
- Multiple tornado clusters around the Oklahoma City metro area
- No fatalities, but at least 450 injuries
- \$595 Million in damage



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**May 2013 Tornado
El Reno, Oklahoma
Widest Tornado Ever Recorded
2.6 Miles Wide**



Produced the second highest wind speed ever recorded (290 mph)



Tornado was on the ground for 40 minutes



- **Traveled 16.2 miles**
- **8 fatalities (including 4 storm chasers)**
- **First tornado in U.S. to claim lives of professional storm chasers**
- **Most fatalities on or close to Interstate 40**



Before



After



El Reno, Oklahoma 8,873 Sq. Ft Lease

- **All Space unusable/untenable**
- **90% of furniture, computers, copiers, and electronics was damaged and disposed**
- **Occupants:**
 - **Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement**
 - **Office of Special Trustees for American Indians**



The Process Begins



- **Assess the damage**
- **Structural Engineer Evaluates**
- **FOH investigates and determines if tenant space is tenable/habitable**
- **Do we stay or do we go?**

- **GSA determines if premises are completely destroyed (lease will terminate immediately) or partially destroyed (GSA Leasing Division determines if reduction in rent applies)**
- **In this case the tenant space was not tenable/habitable – the Lease was terminated**



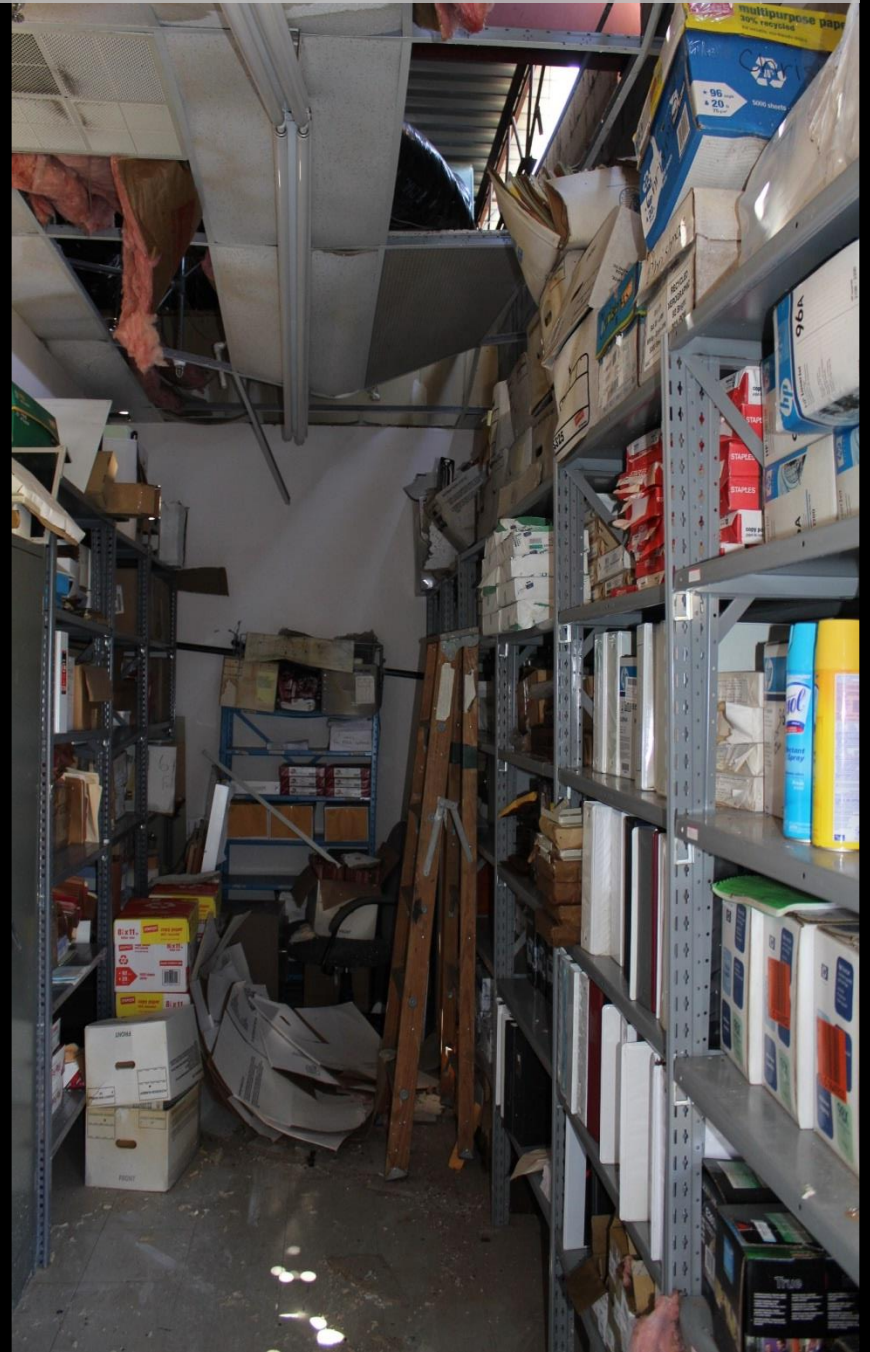


- **GSA Contracting gets involved**
- **GSA Property disposal gets involved**
- **Agency develops SF81 and space requirements and delineated area for the new lease**
- **Agency coordinates data/electrical/phone in temp space**
- **Agency sends Reimbursable Work Authorization (RWA)**



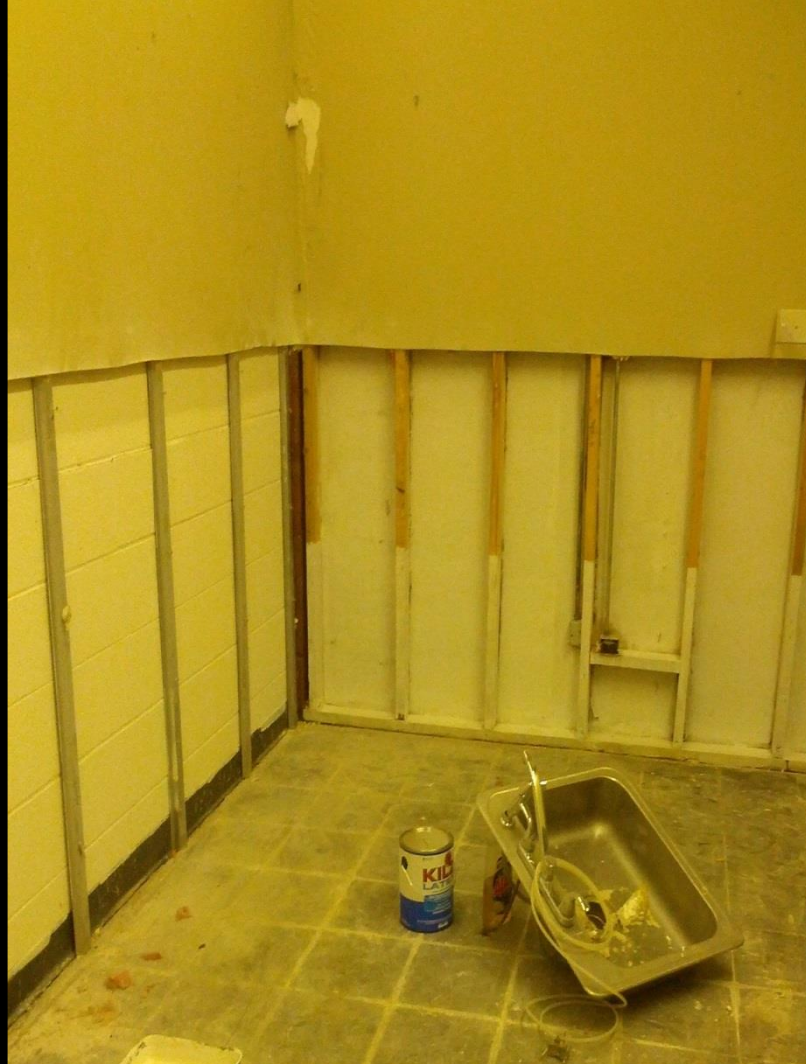
- **FPS/BIA Law Enforcement Secures Space until move out**
- **Contractors specializing in storm clean up will stop by to solicit contracts**
- **Agency is instructed not to make arrangements directly with lessor for temp space, move of furniture, records, etc....**
- **Lessor locked us out of the building - GSA stepped in and made the lessor unlock to GSA**

Agency moves to alternate location (Anadarko, OK.)





- **FOH gives final clearance before lessor begins repairs/build back**
- **Lessor makes repairs**
- **Structural Engineer re-evaluates**
- **FOH re-inspects and makes the determination if tenable/habitable**
- **Agency returns**



- **FOH evaluations/inspections continue throughout the entire process.**



Bureau of Land Management Lease in Moore, Oklahoma 11,488 Sq Ft





- **Followed similar procedures as El Reno**
 - **Assessing damage, determining whether to stay or go, repairs.**
- **Moved agency to Federally-owned building until new lease was complete**



- **It was first determined that the tenants could be moved to empty workstations while repairs were made**
- **Plastic Visqueen was used to separate the work area and protect tenants**
- **New Roof was installed**



- Continued to have moisture and mold problems around windows, doors, and walls behind the vinyl wallpaper after repairs were complete
- Lease was past the firm term and contained cancellation clause
- Agency ended up moving to Federal Space until new lease was in place

Lessons Learned

- *Have Occupancy Emergency Plan (OEP) and Continuity of Operations (COOP) information up-to-date*
 - ✓ *Back up all data in case documents are damaged*
 - ✓ *Provide clear instructions as to where workers should and should not shelter for safety reasons*
 - ✓ *Shelter in place (preferably with TV or Radio available)*
 - ✓ *If the public address system is working, provide periodic updates*



Lessons Learned

- *If building is damaged implement OEP & COOP and resume functions at alternate location*
- *Communicate with lessor to understand government's rights to agency's space*
- *Include storm shelters in new requirements*
- *Consider adding safe rooms to existing workspace*
- *Implement early dismissal*
- *Implement telework*
- *Establish a Disaster Preparedness Checklist*



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An aerial photograph of a densely populated urban area, likely a city in a developing country, showing a vast expanse of buildings and infrastructure. A large blue banner with white text is overlaid at the top of the image.

GSA National Disaster Support

All emergency and major disaster declarations are made solely at the discretion of the President of the United States. A Presidential disaster declaration or an emergency declaration triggers financial and physical assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Federal support is provided through fifteen (15) Emergency Support Functions.

An aerial photograph of a densely populated urban area, likely a slum or informal settlement, with a large blue banner at the top. The banner contains the text "GSA National Disaster Support". The background shows a vast expanse of small, closely packed buildings and structures, with a large white cylindrical tank visible on the left side.

GSA National Disaster Support

GSA Leads and Coordinates:

- Emergency Support Function #7 – Logistics Annex
Scope includes coordination of resource sourcing; acquisition; delivery of supplies, equipment, and services; resource tracking; facility space acquisition; transportation coordination; and management and support of information technology systems services and other administrative services.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

PLEASE TAKE ONE FOR YOUR FAMILY, & SHARE SOME WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS.

(SIDE 1)

✓ TOOLS

- Flashlight(s) (keep one by bed)
- Portable, battery-powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Loud whistle (signal for help)
- Multipurpose pocketknife
- Goggles
- Dust face masks
 - 1/2" Rope
 - coils of baling wire
- Duct tape
- Fire extinguisher
- Candles
- Waterproof matches
- Crescent wrench (turn off gas)
- Crowbar
- Handsaw
- Sledgehammer
- Screwdriver, pliers, hammer
- Garden hose (siphoning & firefighting)
- Can of fluorescent spray paint

✓ COOKING

- Manual can opener
- Paper plates & eating utensils
- Pots & heavy-duty aluminum foil
- Camp stove & fuel (Do Not use indoors)

✓ PERSONAL ITEMS

- Cash
- Copies of key personal documents
 - Birth certificates
 - property deeds,
 - credit cards
 - insurance policies, etc.
- Plastic tape
- Pen
- Paper
- Seeing and hearing aids

✓ HOME & FAMILY PREPARATION

- Create a family communications plan, including an out-of-state person to contact.
- Learn how and where to shut off utilities
 - electricity
 - gas
 - water
- Strap water heater to studs in wall or floor
- Secure heavy furniture, especially bookshelves, to wall studs
- Provide strong support & flexible connections on gas appliances
- Install clips, latches on cabinet doors

✓ SHELTER/CLOTHING

- Cold weather clothing
- Sturdy shoes (keep by bed)
- Heavy work gloves
- One complete change of clothing
- Hat (rain, sun, cold protection)
- Sleeping bags/blankets
- Plastic sheeting or tarps
- Tent

Brought to you courtesy of Vashon Disaster Preparedness Coalition.
"Good preparation makes good neighbors."

For further information, before and during a disaster, consult:

VashonBePrepared.ORG
Neighbors Helping Neighbors



OBRIGADO
KIITOS
DZIEKUJE
XIE XIE
ARRIGATO
PALDIES
DO JEH
SHUKRAN
DANKIE
TODA
SUKRIA
EFHARISTO
STRENGTH
FALEMINDERIT
TAKK
ASANTE

NA GODE
DO JEH

GRATIAS TIBI

THANK YOU
ARIGATO
SPASIBO

DANKE JE
KAMSA HAMNIDA
BALIKA
NGIYABONGA
SALAMAT PO
MERCIGRAZIE
MAHALO
DEKUJI
TERIMA KASISH
GRACIAS
TRUGERE
DANK U
FALEMINDERIT
HVALA

