



Moore's Story

Lessons Learned

Superintendent Robert Romines

About Moore Public Schools

- Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12
- Serves Moore and South OKC (159 square miles)
- Student Population – 24,700+
- 35 School Sites
 - 25 Elementary Schools
 - 6 Junior Highs
 - 3 High Schools
 - 1 Alternative Education School



About Superintendent Romines

- 25 Years in MPS
 - Elementary Education Teacher
 - Assistant Principal
 - Principal
 - Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Instruction
 - Assistant Superintendent, Personnel
 - Superintendent (*named Supt. on May 13, 2013*)

May 20, 2013

- Four days remaining in the school year
- National Weather Service – moderate risk of severe thunder in the a.m. with strong possibility of tornados in the evening
- Sunny but muggy day
- Around 11 a.m. NWS reported a high level threat for possible tornados in the afternoon (earlier than anticipated)

Timeline for Tornado

- 2:40 p.m. - The National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for Cleveland County (includes part of OKC and Moore)
- 2:52 p.m. - Radar indicates rotation may be reaching the ground near Moore
- 2:56 p.m. - First reports of a tornado in progress
- 3:01 p.m. - Tornado Emergency issued for Moore
- 3:16 p.m. - Tornado hits Briarwood Elementary
- 3:19 p.m. - Tornado hits Plaza Towers
- Also hit were the Highland East gym and the Administration Building destroying the Technology Center
- 3:36 p.m. - Tornado “ropes out” and dissipates



Path of May 20, 2013 Tornado



Plaza Towers Elementary



Aftermath of a Catastrophe

- Search and rescue
- Identification: serious injury and/or loss of life
- Damage assessment/needs
- Financial funds and transparency – documenting all donations

Search and Rescue/Identification



Search and Rescue/Identification



Search and Rescue/Identification



Search and Rescue/Identification



Search and Rescue/Identification



Search and Rescue/Identification



Search and Rescue/Identification



Search and Rescue/Identification



Damage Assessment/Needs



Damage Assessment/Needs



Damage Assessment/Needs



First Few Days

- Media team in place
- Bring your team together
- Bring your kids together
- Counseling services



Counseling Services

- Immediate Needs
- Student Needs
- Staff Needs
 - First Responders
 - School Counselors
 - Teachers/Faculty
- Family Members/Others

Where do we go from here?



Increased Safety Precautions

- All 35 school sites will have FEMA approved storm shelters before beginning of school year 2019-2020
- Added position – Safety and Security Director
- Crisis intervention team and written crisis plan – outlines procedures regarding safety concerns/intruder, severe weather/tornado, gas leaks, fire, etc.
- All school personnel complete ALICE – Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate – training through the Moore Police Dept.
- Weather radios are used by more staff and more frequently
- Supt's office/designee is in direct contact with the NWS anytime severe weather is anticipated

Increased Safety Precautions

- All schools practice safety drills for intruder, tornado and fire events. Fire drills are monthly, intruder and tornado drills are twice a year.
- Electronic Keypad & Camera System/ID System
 - Keypad with camera at all main entrances of school sites
 - Parents and community members must follow safety protocol to enter
 - All staff wear MPS issued ID.
 - All students in high school and junior high wear MPS issued ID.
 - ID's have current picture, classification and/or employee position
 - Keypads at designated entrances for students and staff to scan ID's for keyless entrance
 - Badges can be activated/deactivated as needed



Increased Safety Precautions

- Weather letter – increased communication with parents/community
- Written and practiced plan in place for home and school (practice from start to finish)
- Site meeting spots (make sure parents are informed)
- Go bags
- Communication plan
- Redundant servers for technology

Additional Notes

- Media
- Anniversary of catastrophe
- Take pictures (insurance purposes)
- Adjust board policies as needed for transfers





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