Kirstie Smith, Communications Director
320 East 4th Street
Joplin, MO 64801
417.624.4150 (O) | 417.438.1738 (C)
www.joplincc.com | ksmith@joplincc.com

Joplin, Missouri hit by EF-5 Tornado May 22, 2011

January 6, 2014

BUSINESS INFORMATION

- 531 businesses destroyed or severely damaged
- 4,500-5,000 employees affected
- Approximately 3,000 were kept on payroll in some capacity
- 450 businesses have reopened or are in the process of reopening
- 60 businesses have indicated that they will not rebuild/reopen
- Approximately 150 new businesses have opened*

*This count does NOT include contractors/builders that have set up local offices since tornado

BREAKDOWN of AFFECTED BUSINESSES

		Open	Closed	Unknown**	Moved
General Businesses		262	48	10	7
Medical/Dental		141	8	0	0
Daycares		8	4	1	0
Apartment Complexes		4	0	2	0
Schools		9	0	0	0
Churches		26	0	1	0
Totals		**450**	**60**	**14**	**7**

**Unknown includes those still debating location or still settling with insurance and/or those who have not updated our office with information.

- The Business Recovery Center (BRC) opened on Thursday, May 26, the fastest BRC opening in U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) history
- The BRC included the Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC) from Missouri Southern State University, legal and CPA services and various other business resources as needed by the business community
- While the SBA has ended operations in the area, the SBTDC and other services remains open to help business recovery in the Chamber owned and managed Newman Innovation Center
- SBA has approved $20.4 million in disaster loans for businesses. SBA made 2,110 contacts with area businesses from May 26, 2011 through August 26, 2011

- Business Recovery Fund to help businesses with long term recovery was established by Wednesday, May 25. In first 48 hours, fund raised nearly $50,000. Tax credits are available to increase fund to a potential $7 million
- Joplin Tomorrow Fund was created by Former Senator Jack Danforth to help with job creation and business growth. Fund is at $1.4 million currently
- Thirty loans have been extended to businesses from Chamber managed loan funds
- SBTDC has conducted 790 counseling sessions and 82 conferences (workshops) with a total of 716 attendees at the MSSU location and 512 counseling sessions at the BIG Hub location inside of the Newman Innovation Center since May 26, 2011
- Chamber professional staff management have given presentations to approximately 50 groups on business recovery post-disaster
- Continued contact with area employers to ensure that their needs are met by services offered by the chamber staff
- Chamber maintains the only accurate, complete listing of business statuses at http://www.joplincc.com/businessstatus.html. All businesses that were severely affected are included in the list regardless of membership status within the chamber.

COMMUNICATION INFORMATION

- The first Member communication after the tornado was made at 6:52 pm on May 22, via social media. The Chamber's Facebook page has continued to be a valuable source of information for our Members as well as the public. All information posted is verified and credible, which was crucial immediately after the disaster
- By Monday, May 23, contact was made with Members via email (assuming they had access)
- Social media was a crucial communication source after the tornado. Members and other business owners might have been without their computers or land-line telephones, but nearly all were able to maintain connectivity via cell phones and therefore had access to social media as well
- Full communication functions were restored to the Chamber offices by Thursday, May 26
- Chamber staff immediately began distributing information from FEMA, SBA, City of Joplin and SBTDC to businesses that need the information regardless of membership status. Within two weeks of tornado, contact had been made with all the destroyed Member businesses; within six weeks all destroyed businesses as well as the 800-plus Chamber Member businesses that were not affected, had been personally contacted. Contacts for status check updates are being made on regular basis with all damaged and destroyed businesses
- Chamber is maintaining a public list of business status information for affected businesses located at http://www.joplincc.com/businessstatus.html

PARTNERSHIPS

Long term partnerships and a commitment to the ultimate goal, recovery for our area, can be credited for the successful recovery efforts so far. The Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce works every day to create the best possible business climate for small and large employers across all sectors. Many of the partnerships that helped during the immediate aftermath of the tornado and beyond into our first year of recovery have been in place for years.

- **SBTDC** – The chamber has long partnered with the SBTDC at MSSU and encouraged all businesses to seek the guidance, counseling and training offered by the SBTDC. The chamber manages and owns an innovation center for start-up and new businesses. After the tornado the chamber opened space for SBTDC at the innovation center where they became housed as part of the BRC with the SBA. Currently the SBTDC is still located at MSSU as well as inside of the innovation center. This added location has proven to be helpful to the business community.
- **Joplin Schools** – The chamber has always understood the importance of strong educational facilities for business and job attraction. We have partnered with the schools on many projects including mentoring programs, leadership development skills training and services for at risk students. Not only are strong schools attractive to potential new businesses for their employees, they also count on the schools producing a quality workforce. Shortly after the superintendent of Joplin Schools announced that school would start on time, the chamber came to the table with a building to house the destroyed middle school. The chamber was also able to help facilitate the acquisition of the space for the 11-12 Campus at Northpark Mall.
- **City of Joplin** – The chamber has been the economic development arm of the city for more than 25 years. Naturally, supporting business recovery and encouraging new business growth are a key piece in the recovery of the community. The City of Joplin and the chamber continue to work together to create the best climate for all businesses in our area.
- **Regional Partners** – The chamber also works across state lines into Kansas and to neighboring counties in Missouri promoting this area as a good place for business. These regional partnerships contributed to the fast recovery by bringing in support from the entire region.
- **Citizen's Advisory Recovery Team (CART)** – CART is a new team developed since the tornado, but the chamber has worked with many, nearly all members of the CART steering committee throughout the years on any number of projects, from cultural affairs to public policy to infrastructure. We expect this newest partnership to be one of the most exciting partnerships as we take the opportunity in front of us to create the type of community that the citizens have asked for. The CART plan was adopted unanimously by the Joplin City Council, the Joplin Schools Board, the Duquesne Board of Alderman and the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and items are being competed in conjunction with the Master Developer's plans.