

February 2013 Blizzard

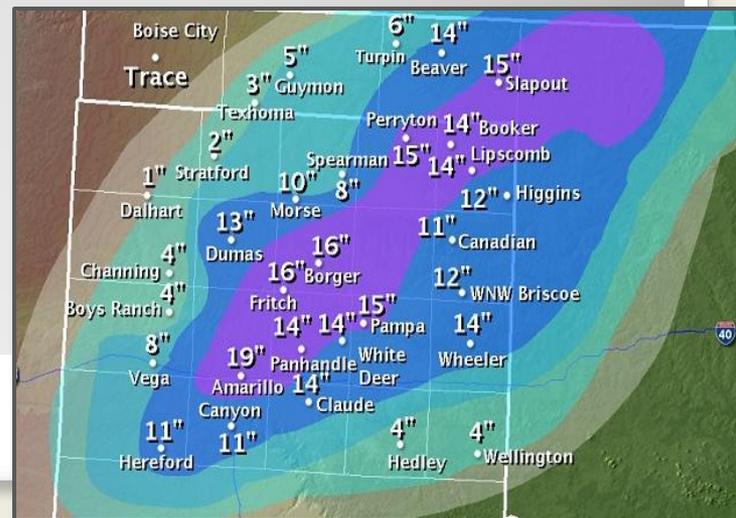


Amarillo City Commission
Tuesday, March 5, 2013

- **Historic Blizzard**

- 19.1 total inches of snow
- Largest single day snowfall in February
- 2nd largest snowfall for a calendar day
- 14 straight hours of visibilities below 1 mile
- 12 straight hours of winds above 30 mph
 - Included 5 hours of sustained winds above 40 mph
- 75 mph peak gust in Amarillo

What Happened?



- Friday – 1430 – NWS Coordination Call and OEM Situation Report
- Saturday – 1500 – NWS Coordination Call and OEM Situation Report
- Sunday – 0435 – NWS Issues Blizzard Warning
- Sunday – 1500 – NWS Coordination Call
 - 1530 – City of Amarillo, TXDEM, TXDOT Coordination Call
 - 1600 – City of Amarillo Coordination Call
 - Division and Department Level Assignments
 - Resource Check
- Sunday – 2100 – Amarillo EOC Activated



Timeline

- **Monday – 0041 -Blizzard Begins**
 - Visibilities 0 to 50 feet reported
 - 0500 – NWS Coordination Call, OEM Situation Report
 - 0600 – City of Amarillo Coordination Meeting/Call
 - Situation and Resource Status Review
 - 0900 – All Major Interstates and State Highways Closed
 - 0900 – DPS/TxDOT/City Coordination Call
 - Warming Stations Activated for Stranded Motorists
 - Potter County S.O.; Randall County F.D.; City of Canyon
 - 1500 NWS Coordination Call, OEM Situation Report
 - 1600 City of Amarillo Coordination Meeting/Call
 - Situation and Resource Status Review
 - 1752 – NWS Cancels Blizzard Warning
- **Monday Night – Tuesday Night**
 - 1800 – Coordination Call with Area Schools
 - Plans to Reopen Schools, Snow Removal Focus and Assignments
 - Coordination Meetings/Calls Continue
 - Focus on Resources, Staffing, Recovery Implementation

Impact







KAMR/ Monday
Amarillo, Texas



VOICE OF:
JIM SIMMS
AMARILLO, TEXAS

DEVELOPING STORY

BLIZZARD TARGETING MIDWEST
More than a foot of snow in parts of Texas, Oklahoma

EXTREME WEATHER

LIVE CNN

CNN ZIMMERMAN'S TRIAL FOR SECOND-DEGREE MURDER SET TO B 5:04 AM PT

- **Standard Response Plans Implemented**

- **Plans Adapted to Meet Severity of Event**

- Street Department – primary responsibility for arterial streets
 - Police Department & Fire Department – primary responsibility for search and rescue
 - Fire Department Wildland Engines Used as Rescue Vehicles
 - City Equipment/Vehicles
 - AMR Ambulances
 - Stranded Motorists
 - City Wrecker Used as Recovery Vehicle
 - Parks Department Assigned to Keep Critical Facilities Open
 - 1 skid loader at EOC
 - 1 skid loader at Amarillo Police Department
 - Equipment Rotating through 11 in-town Fire Stations to maintain access



What Did We Do?

- Standard Response Plans Implemented
 - Plans Adapted to Meet Severity of Event
 - Utilities Division – typically responsible for public parking lots/facilities
 - 8 backhoes re-assigned to Street Department
 - Primary Responsibility to Assist with Digging out Streets
 - All 3 Plants Remained Operational with On-Site Staffing
 - Municipal Garage
 - City Fuel Truck on Rotation to Take Fuel to Response Equipment
 - Garage Opened Sunday Night and Remained Open Throughout Event
 - Garage Service Vehicles & Tire Truck Staffed throughout Event



What Did We Do?

- **Standard Response Plans Implemented**
 - Plans Adapted to Meet Severity of Event
 - Utilities Division – typically responsible for public parking lots/facilities
 - 8 backhoes re-assigned to Street Department
 - Primary Responsibility to Assist with Digging out Streets
 - All 3 Plants Remained Operational with On-Site Staffing
 - Airport
 - Staff on-duty Sunday night
 - All Airport Snow Equipment and Vehicles Required
 - Municipal Garage
 - City Fuel Truck Put on Rotation to Take Fuel to Response Equipment
 - Garage Opened Sunday Night and Remained Open Throughout Event

What Did We Do?



- **Emergency Management**
 - **Office of Emergency Management**
 - Activated for 46 hours straight with 5 staff members providing 186 hours of service
 - Issued 14 electronic weather situation reports
 - Hosted 13 weather coordination conference calls
 - WebEOC accessed by 72 personnel
 - Randall & Potter Counties activated 5 warming stations
- **Public Safety**
 - **Police Department**
 - 103 Officers dedicated to field operations
 - 15 4-wheel drive vehicles, most from other City Departments
 - Made 2 arrests while responding to burglaries. One of the suspects was stuck in the snow, with his tire tracks leading to the business he had burglarized.
 - **Fire Department**
 - 75 Firefighters operating 20 vehicles
 - Responded to 153 incidents; many were requests to tow other heavy vehicles
 - **Amarillo Emergency Communications Center**
 - Answered 6,279 calls
 - 42 staff members worked a total of 859 hours.

How Did We Do It?

- **Public Works**
 - **Street Department**
 - 90 employees cleared 249 travel miles
 - Total vehicles and equipment used: 41
 - **Garage**
 - 17 employees
 - 1 fuel truck, 1 wrecker, 2 service truck, 1 SUV
 - Approx. 9500 gallons of fuel
- **Utilities**
 - **Water Treatment**
 - 12 employees reported for work
 - **Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection**
 - 31 employees reported for duty
 - Used 8 backhoes and 1 SUV
 - **Wastewater Treatment**
 - River Road had 14 employees respond, and Hollywood had 7
 - Used 200 lbs of snow melt at River Road

How Did We Do It?



- **Parks & Recreation**

- Parks Department

- 52 employees used 500 lbs of snow melt to clear public parking areas and walkways
 - Total vehicles and equipment used: 54
 - Responded to emergency calls to assist the Street Department

- **City Services**

- Airport

- 32 employees responded to the winter event
 - 6 snow plows, 2 snow blowers, 1 front end loader, 1 skid loader, and 5 SUV's
 - Approx. 725 gallons of fuel were used to clear the airport

- Facilities Department

- 19 employees spread 6000 pounds of snow melt
 - Kept the EOC, Police Station, and Dispatch Centers accessible throughout storm; mainly working in the elements with shovels
 - Prepared City Buildings to open for business

How Did We Do It?



- Employees: 509
- Vehicles and Equipment: 174
- Snow Melt: 6700 lbs.
- Diesel Fuel: 7252 gal.
- Unleaded Fuel: 3173 gal.
- Sand: 250 tons
- De-icer: 5000 lbs.



Total Combined Resources

- If the snow had fallen level, the 19" of snow we experienced would equal 21,365 cubic yards, per mile.

The City's average dump truck holds 12 cubic yards of material.



Fun Fact



