

Mexico: Coahuila Tornado – Disaster Response Report 1 (4 May 2007)

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE American Red Cross International Services

On April 24 at approximately 6:30pm local time, a tornado swept through Piedras Negras, Mexico. Intense rains and hail accompanied the over 180mph winds in the city located in northern part of the state of Coahuila, close to the US-Mexico border. Latest reports indicate:

- 4 confirmed deaths
- 170 injured
- 7000 affected people (1,400 families)
- 600 damaged homes
- Initial infrastructure damage to electrical lines and water service

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Within hours after the disaster, first responders and disaster workers were on-site to provide medical attention, food, water and blankets to the affected population.
- A temporary shelter was opened and accommodated approximately 1500 people (300 families) in the aftermath of the tornado. The shelter currently remains open with approximately 800 people (160 families).
- Initial damage left 90% of the town without power and interrupted water service. At this time 95% of the town has regained electricity and 100% has water service.
- Basic food requirements of the affected population have now been covered.
- The injured individuals have received the necessary medical attention.
- Damage assessment has been completed. Funds from the National Fund for Disasters are being allocated for the reconstruction of damaged and destroyed homes and the State Government is planning to provide water containers and building materials.

MOVEMENT RESPONSE

- American Red Cross – contributed \$20,000 to the Mexican Red Cross (MRC) to support the tornado relief efforts. The funds will be used to support MRC's plan of action in which they will distribute the following: personal hygiene kits, kitchen kits, personal kits for children under the age of five, and a lantern with AM/FM radio. The American Red Cross continues to monitor the situation and liaise with domestic disaster response colleagues responding to the tornado on the US side of the border.
- Mexican Red Cross (MRC) – responded immediately after the tornado by dispatching first responders to assist the affected population and ambulances to attend to and transport the injured. Food and blankets were also distributed by MRC local volunteers and medical attention and psycho-social consultations were given as necessary. A damage assessment team was also deployed to conduct assessments of the infrastructure, buildings and homes. The MRC has developed a plan of action to assist 3000 people (600 families) affected by the tornados.
- International Federation – is monitoring the situation through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) based in Panama.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- Government of Mexico – The local government dispatched health workers and ambulances to the affected zone following the disaster and continue to assist those affected. The Civil Protection Agency is administering the temporary shelter and the federal and state governments are in the process of assisting the affected families in their reconstruction efforts.

The information in this report is compiled from a number of sources including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the U.S. Agency for International Development and involved national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies. The American Red Cross strives to provide the most accurate and timely information possible; however, all information should be considered conditional until a final report has been issued.