



DeWitt & Associates Lends Support in Joplin

In a matter of minutes on May 22 an EF-5 tornado left behind an unfathomable amount to be rebuilt, not only for thousands residents homes and hundreds of businesses, but also for Mercy-St.John's and Freeman Health System. Without knowing the full extent of the damage DeWitt & Associates expedited project teams along with equipment and materials over to Joplin immediately following the disaster to begin shuffling through the amount of cleanup and restoration needed.

Mercy took a direct hit and clearly was not operational; they began transferring patients to Freeman and other health care facilities, as a testament to their character, the entire facility was evacuated in 90 minutes. DeWitt's forces arrived at Freeman within an hour of the crisis and immediately began to aid in the repairs to roofs and other areas. Our men also supported the cause by



transporting and even carrying the injured to areas to receive emergency care, this literally went on for hours as vehicles bringing the injured were lined up 3 blocks long. As darkness approached, the only lights visible for miles were from the generators at Freeman and the light Towers that DeWitt expedited to the site.

The next day Mercy made the call to DeWitt for support on their campus. Immediately, the DeWitt team began clearing pathways thru the site and within 48 hours had the site secured and Mercy's onsite command center operational. The next task was to clear debris, including 400 cars, from the building so that further damage assessments could begin. During that first week DeWitt also provided support to the temporary field hospital and was able to reconstruct a couple of surviving buildings into operational clinics within 14 days of the disaster. The monumental efforts and countless hours worked by many during that first week presented itself when the American flag was raised to half-staff on the broken but repaired flagpole at the front entry of the hospital. Grown men and women wept uncontrollably as the emotions of the week were not able to be contained.

The problems that Mercy is faced with go well beyond the damage to their facilities. DeWitt is proud that Mercy called for our team to provide support in this crisis. DeWitt would also like to recognize those individuals that responded the night of the disaster and provided support however it was needed. Dan Stoll, Bill Lassiter, James Hopkins, Brad Thomlison, Mike Nevels, Brandon Arrington, Ken Church, Roger Young, Mark Zeman, Don Webb, and Andy Bowers.

Some recent photos taken around the Mercy Campus, demonstrate that a large amount of cleanup has taken place since the tornado's devastation. And

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although there's still a long way to go to get the Campus up and running and meeting the community's needs once again, they will get there. DeWitt will be there lending support every step of the way.

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