

2022 JACKSON WATER CRISIS RESPONSE SUMMARY



July 29, 2022

City of Jackson issues boil water notice.

August 29, 2022

Flooding from the Pearl River exacerbates challenges in Jackson water infrastructure, pushing water system to brink of failure.

August 30, 2022

President Biden approves emergency declaration for Jackson water crisis after state of emergency declarations by local city, state and department of health.

Preparation

Our ministry's work in this area began in earnest following Hurricane Katrina. The impact of this 2005 storm exposed vulnerabilities for our operations and resulted in steps taken to ensure we were better prepared for the future. Two 2MG generators that can power the entire hospital were obtained through a Mitigation Grant from FEMA. St. Dominic's completed construction of a 500,000-gallon elevated water tank in 2009 that provides approximately a three-day supply of water without refill. In 2015, work was completed on an independent well capable of providing 600 gallons per minute flow from the Sparta aquifer located about 800 feet below ground. St. Dominic's employs an independent well operator who treats and maintains



PREPARATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY

LEGACY MITIGATION PLANS YIELD SUCCESS

As the circumstances of the latest chapter in the City of Jackson water crisis unfolded in late August, St. Dominic's operations and administrative leaders moved to action with a virtual command center structure. The group of leaders met daily to evaluate the situation and its impact on its facilities, services to patients and to its most valuable assets... its people.

While the emergency declarations raised alarm and surprise for many across the country, those who live and work in Mississippi's capital city were experiencing this as another turn of events in a decades long infrastructure challenge. Thankfully for St. Dominic's, years of preparation and mitigation strategies had come together to mean that the direct impact to its facilities and operations was minimal. The biggest impact came to the 844 team members who reside in the City of Jackson.

chlorine levels and verifies compliance with regulatory agencies. St. Dominic's also had the foresight to align the hospital's fire suppression system with its independent water supply.

With the most recent events, St. Dominic's has been fortunate to have had minimal impact to our operations. Still, these latest challenges have presented the opportunity to further ensure our ability to maintain strong operations both on our main campus and in other locations. Upgrades under consideration include the installation of an independent backup well to eliminate reliance on municipal water in the event of a primary system failure and provide additional fire suppression capabilities and pressure.

Impacts to St. Dominic's

One of four Jackson clinic locations experienced low water pressure and we switched to bottled water for drinking in all locations. The related regional flooding also caused damage to the Community Health Clinic (provides free healthcare services to those in need) forcing it to close until it can be repaired or relocated. Our mobile clinic, the Care-A-Van, may be used as a temporary resource in the interim.

As noted before, 844 St. Dominic's team members reside within Jackson city limits. This represents a quarter of our entire Jackson Market workforce. While we anticipated that the challenges of this crisis would lead to call offs and staffing challenges, we saw the opposite. The majority continued to work as scheduled and even pitched in to help their community and their colleagues.



To support team members, St. Dominic's & FMOLHS:

- Offered shower facilities to team members.
- Provided cases of bottled drinking water to team members via a Point of Distribution (POD) site on our Frontage Road campus on three separate days. The POD was staffed by volunteers from our leadership and various team members. A number of leaders and team members also made arrangements to have water delivered to team members who could not get away to drive through or who did not have private transportation available.
- Surveyed team members to evaluate other common and unique needs related to the water crisis.

Lessons Learned & Future Mitigation

As with Katrina, the 2022 Jackson Water Crisis has provided further insight into the opportunities we have to better prepare for future disasters. Clean, reliable water has such an extensive impact from fire safety, sterilization and cleaning to food preparation and HVAC in many cases. We will continue to make this aspect of readiness a priority and are exploring opportunities to expand the capabilities of our independent water system.

As a key part of critical infrastructure, St. Dominic's is well-positioned, both literally and figuratively, to serve the future needs of central Mississippi. Additionally, our geographic position on two key traffic arteries for the state and the region mean our continued strength and operations are an essential asset to mitigating disasters in surrounding areas.

In addition to planning for several infrastructure and facility updates, St. Dominic's is also taking a strategic approach to deepening our insight into our workforce and how regional crises may impact some or all of our team members. This will feed our future-state communications tactics, relief and support efforts and staffing plans to ensure continued operations regardless of what the future brings.

St. Dominic's is a proven partner uniquely positioned to leverage funding to create a better, healthier infrastructure for the communities it serves. We look forward to working together to improve our region's readiness and resilience for years to come.