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Ice Storm Observations – Next Time

TEAM Springfield did many things well given the unexpected and unprecedented severity and intensity of the storm. Now that we know what we know there are opportunities to get better.

OBSERVATIONS:

- TEAM Springfield needs to determine what natural disasters might occur in the future – ice, snow, fire, earthquake, flood, etc. and have a plan in place for each. What services are needed for each particular crisis?

SHS / Two Rivers respite centers were a good response.

- Could we have opened earlier?
- SPS needed a respite center in the Thurston area
- Should be open to the public, not just SPS students and their families
- Provide respite centers with Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)

Staffing: Many (all)? building admins were asked to work but most buildings didn't have power.

- Have a staffing plan so that everyone can be productive – clearing branches, opening drains, serving guests, etc. Maybe include work-from-home plans.
- Pay for volunteers, including administrators, needs to be clearly defined and communicated to everyone impacted.

District announced school closures at 5:00 pm every day.

- This limited time frame was challenging for some employees and families to arrange child care and other necessities for the following day.
- Ask employees and families what kind of time frame is needed and adjust?

Food service – some confusion over what food could be served?

Determine chain of command and locations for TEAM Springfield to improve communications among agencies and the community. Assign responsibilities within each organization and clearly define the communication path.