

Synopsis of Events Related to the Storm on June 29, 2012 Fairfax County Facilities Management Department

Select staff of the Facilities Management Department (FMD) carry a pager (on-call pager) to react to service calls placed after 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and on holidays and weekends. The Waste Water Collection Division (WWCD) of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services answers service calls received after normal business hours for FMD at its Fred's Oak Road Facility.

On Friday, June 29, after-hours service calls began shortly after 10:30 p.m. Most of the first several dozen calls received were identified as fire alarm trouble calls, which occur when power to a fire alarm system is interrupted. In addition, staff received calls reporting loss of power to buildings.

Early Saturday morning, the WWCD phone system began to experience problems and soon the telephone system and pages stopped working. In addition, cellphone carriers began experiencing difficulties. Fortunately, the Data Center located at the Fairfax County Government Center remained operational, which made it possible for FMD to take trouble calls via email.

FMD's priority on Saturday morning was to keep all public safety facilities operational and to protect all County assets. The high winds caused widespread power outages and extensive damage to infrastructure and property across Fairfax County. County facilities equipped with emergency backup generators such as Police and Fire Stations, radio towers and essential County facilities began to generate power to run those facilities. Generator technicians worked 16 to 18 hour shifts to ensure critical facilities had backup power. As more time without power elapsed, fueling facilities with generators became increasingly important. Therefore, FMD staff successfully worked with vendors and the Department of Vehicle Services to deliver fuel to the generator sites.

Throughout the weekend and into the beginning of the week, FMD monitored buildings as they received power and came back online. FMD staff reset building systems that went down during the power outage and assessed damage to County buildings, property and assets. In addition, FMD worked with various County departments and agencies to identify leased facilities that were without power. FMD worked with the Emergency Operations Center to identify suitable locations for cooling opportunities.

In summary, from an FMD perspective, there was no catastrophic damage to the County assets. There will be an internal FMD lessons-learned meeting to address alternative methods to better provide our necessary services.