

## **Delivery Report for SCLS Board of Trustees September, 2018**

**Prepared by: Corey Baumann - Delivery Services Coordinator**

### **Delivery Flooding Response:**

Beginning on the afternoon of August 20, areas in and around Madison were hit with torrential rain in a series of storms that impacted our ability to navigate our typical routes.

Tuesday (August 21) was among the most challenging. Our Metro West route took about an hour longer than the normal 90 minutes to complete. Our staff encountered detours, debris, traffic jams, backed-up sewers, and disabled cars along the far west side of Madison. This was from the previous day's downpour.

We also experienced a blockage of US Highway 14 where there was a bridge washout. We have been detouring ever since along CTH KP, which runs parallel to US 14 through Cross Plains, Black Earth, and Mazomanie. This has not caused us any added expense or time.

All 3 communities had localized flooding. The library in Black Earth was surrounded by water for about a day (and one lost day of delivery). Mazomanie was dry, but we could not get in for a couple of days.

A subsequent storm then hit our Sauk County area especially hard. In succession, we lost our ability to make deliveries to Rock Springs, North Freedom, and LaValle. Reedsburg was accessible, but limited in access around outside of the city.

Our staff stayed in close communication as roads reopened or were temporarily closed as floodwaters moved downstream. They were often the eyes in the field for us as we evaluated traffic conditions remotely with the help of WI511 and Google Maps traffic.

### **A Weather Event:**

Along with the seemingly endless chain of heavy rain storms was one that elevated our senses. Our staff responded brilliantly and with caution.

On August 28, our driver (Bill Shatswell) for the long-haul Western Route (Eau Claire-Menomonie-La Crosse) was returning to Madison. At about 3:00pm, he was in idle traffic on Interstate 90/94 near Camp Douglas in Juneau County due to flash flooding ahead of him.

Tim Drexler was at the Delivery facility and noted that a tornado warning had been issued for the area. He immediately got in contact with Bill via the in-vehicle cell phone to inform him. Bill also heard the local sirens going off. This was a pretty tense situation for Bill due to his limited visibility from the downpour, but also the uncertainty of the warning and also no place to go.

Tim was able to help Bill get a better picture for the storm progress and the options for Bill to exit the highway for his final return to Madison.

I want to recognize both Tim and Bill for their ability to communicate and make the best possible decisions in an uncertain situation. Tim's recognition of the likelihood that Bill was possibly in the middle of a serious weather event and subsequent call to Bill, was especially appreciated. Bill made mention of how this helped ease his stress in that moment and he was grateful for Tim keeping an eye out for him.

Everything ended well. Bill returned to base quite a bit later than normal.

Another key decision that was made on that day was that Tim sent home our staff early. He had kept an eye on the anticipated severe weather locally and decided to get our staff on the road sooner so they could safely arrive at home before travel conditions deteriorated. Some small amounts of sorting were tabled until the following morning, but it was clearly a very good decision that was recognized and appreciated by our staff.

### **Last Reported Lost-Time Injury:**

***December 26, 2017*** – While sorting, our staff member was attempting to lift a full bin to move it. He felt an unusually sharp and prolonged pain in his back. He finished the day with assistance in his work, but he missed the next 3 days at the direction of his doctor. The bin in question was unusually heavy and likely contained academic materials which are typically denser and tightly packed.

Current: 270 calendar days as of 9/12/18

(581 calendar days was the previous accident free stretch)