



MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

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**For Immediate Release:**  
**March 13, 2006**

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# Severe Weather Awareness Week Starts with Real Life Drill

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JEFFERSON CITY — Confusion, disappointment and relief has spread throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> District this morning as people check their property, call family members, and just take note of the peace after a stormy few days. Sixty-three tornado reports and 285 hail reports make it very hard for anyone in the state of Missouri not to be touched by this storm.

Orrick, a small town in Ray County, was hit early in the series of serious storms and the town declared an emergency. Part of the school roof in Orrick was blown away, there was also damage to the local gas station and many power lines are down.

Saline County was also hit hard, particularly the southeast portion, with several houses reported damaged or lost. MFA's research farm south of Marshall reported 11 of 12 buildings damaged. Carroll, Howard, and eastern Lafayette counties also saw strong storms and hail, which caused damage to some homes.

Most importantly, we cannot forget our neighbors. Pettis County lost one of its citizens, and between 100 and 150 homes were destroyed. Randolph County reported three fatalities so far, and some are still reported trapped in mobile homes.

I was lucky to only lose one barn in the destruction; many of my neighbors lost everything. I ask that you and your family keep everyone affected by these storms in your prayers. Please also give a hand to your neighbors if you have not experienced any damage. There are lots of ways to help: donate food, clothes or supplies, help pick up trees or debris, or donate to your local Red Cross. The needs appear to be endless.

We can all be proud of the volunteers, firefighters, and law-enforcement agencies for how they have responded. Day and night they worked to clear roads, save lives, and restore order even as their own homes and families were in line for the storm. For that, we are all thankful.

As the sun starts to brighten our day after this tragic night and insurance agents notified, I want to offer you with a few helpful numbers and any support my office can provide:

- **American Red Cross:** Greater Kansas City, (816) 931-8400; Boone County, (573) 445-9411
- **MoDOT:** (888) 275-6636
- **Missouri Department of Insurance:** (573) 751-2640; This number is only if you are having problems with your current insurance agency.
- **Senator Bill Stouffer:** (866) 768-3987

We are only in the beginning of the severe storm season. If another storm hits, it is important to let your local officials know what damage you obtain so they can notify the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

March 13-17 is Severe Weather Awareness Week. There will be statewide tornado alerts on Tuesday to make sure all communications are working. I want to remind you of safety tips to prepare for a tornado.

- **Get prepared today:** Make sure your shelter, even if it will be a bathroom, has bottled water, food, a flashlight, candles, blankets, and a battery-powered radio.
- **Safe places:** Stay away from windows and mirrors. If you're in a car do not go under overpasses. They can collect a lot of debris. Put a mattress over you to protect yourself from debris. Go to the lowest, most interior part of your house.

I am here to help you after this tornado and any future storms. My sympathy goes out to all the families who lost a loved one or a home in the storms. Please feel free to contact my office at (573) 751-1507 or toll free at (866) 768-3987.

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