



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Alter is Convinced Missouri is Well-Prepared for State Emergencies

JEFFERSON CITY — After attending the second of four quarterly meetings for the Joint Committee on Terrorism, Bioterrorism and Homeland Security, Sen. Bill Alter, R-High Ridge, is impressed with Missouri's current level of preparedness for state emergencies.

The bipartisan panel, which consists of seven members from the Senate and seven members from the House, met Tuesday at the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) headquarters in Jefferson City. The heads of state departments and agencies discussed with lawmakers their roles in statewide emergencies and their plan for continued progress.

"The issue of terrorism and natural disasters is a sensitive one, and though it's clear we have a long way to go, I am certain that Missouri is on a path in the right direction," Alter said. "No one wants to experience another tragedy like Oklahoma City or 9/11, so it's comforting to see leaders in state government enthusiastic and committed to ensuring that we as a state are as prepared as we can be — just in case."

The joint committee is charged with overseeing state government efforts regarding homeland security and annually recommending to the General Assembly how Missouri can best prepare for and respond to potential large-scale incidents.

Alter, who has 24 years of law enforcement experience, was pleased to hear from SEMA that Missouri received all passing marks in a preparedness review.

"In fact, compared with other states, Missouri is above average in its potential to respond quickly and efficiently to natural and man-caused disasters," Alter said. "I know how important it is that my own family be kept safe from harm, and with SEMA's persistent efforts to continue improving, I am confident that all Missouri families are in good hands in the event of a state catastrophe."

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