



Office of  
**Jason Crowell** State Senator  
The Crowell Connection

*Senator Jason Crowell proudly represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.*

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## **Deadly Storms Strike Southeast Missouri**

### **Helping Thy Neighbor**

Some of the most severe weather in recent memory struck Missouri and unfortunately took the lives of nine Missourians this past weekend. Locally, two Perry County residents were unable to escape the path of an F-3 tornado that struck near the town of St. Mary this past Saturday night. A total of two tornadoes ripped through eastern Missouri causing the loss of property, memories and loved ones.

I had the opportunity to tour northern Perry County this past Monday and survey the aftermath of the storms. What I saw was heartbreaking. Debris from houses, buildings, farms, furniture and vehicles was everywhere. I talked to our neighbors directly hurt by the storms and consoled them for their loss. I was proud when I saw so many community members reach out to those who lost everything.

We have a long way to go in recovery and rebuilding efforts, and the state is stepping up to help. On Saturday night, as the storms were moving out of the area, the Governor activated the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to assist local law enforcement and first responders, and on Monday, the Governor declared the state a natural disaster area and activated the Missouri National Guard to assist in recovery efforts.

The State of Missouri has also requested financial assistance from the federal government, which Congresswoman JoAnn Emerson and U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent are working on. If President Bush approves the request, those affected by the storm could receive disaster grants or low-interest loans to cover personal property and business losses, and county governments could use public assistance to repair or replace damaged roads and other infrastructure. I also thank Director Doyle Childers and the Department of Natural Resources for making cleanup of storm debris easier for victims by lessening the solid waste-disposal restrictions.

Trinity Baptist Church in St. Mary's has set up a fund for storm victims. Proceeds will be divided equally among the families. Donations can be mailed to 500 Mulberry

Street, St. Mary, MO, 63673. Make the check out to Trinity Baptist Church, and in the memo portion of the check, specify that the money is for tornado victims. To donate to a specific family, write their name there also.

A disaster center has been set up at Brewer Church Hall in St. Mary, and anyone is welcome to come by and take a needs-assessment test administered by the Red Cross. The disaster center is open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. until this Friday, March 17, and thereafter as needed. The Perryville Health Department is also a great resource and they can be reached at 573-547-8589.

For those who have been displaced or have lost precious belongings

or loved ones, the hope that fellow Missourians can offer them is invaluable. I ask that we all continue to pray for the victims of these storms.

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### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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