



Office of
Jason Crowell State Senator
The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Southeast Missouri's Helping Hands During Hard Times



Parts of Southeast Missouri are in pieces after last Friday's storms ravaged the area with high winds, tornadoes, hail and flooding. Of the dozen tornadoes documented, one was a powerful F4 twister that hit Perry County, where six injuries were reported and more than 100 homes and three churches

were destroyed or damaged. Madison County also saw significant property damage. Fortunately, no fatalities have been reported, however 10 people were injured.

Although the summer drought has inspired farmers in the region to wish for rain, too much rain fell on the area in too little time. More than a foot of rain poured down, which destroyed an estimated 25 to 50 percent of the cotton crop, and in some areas, corn and soybean crops were also affected.

Community members, families and public officials have joined efforts to restore property, clear debris and rekindle hope. Governor Matt Blunt was quick to respond to the disaster with executive orders to free up state-agency resources to assist in dealing with the aftermath of the storms. Another of his executive orders allowed the Department of Natural Resources to issue waivers pertaining to waste disposal and open burning to help

facilitate debris removal in impacted counties.

I traveled with Governor Blunt on Tuesday to Crosstown in Perry County to view the destruction caused by the tornado, which had winds of up to 210 mph. The town had clearly been battered, and I was astounded by the amount of debris and the signs of destruction everywhere I looked. But at the same time, I was warmed by the number of



people who were united by the devastation. Storm victims, volunteers from the Red Cross and other organizations, law enforcement members and safety personnel from the state and federal levels have diligently and enthusiastically been clearing debris, mending property and offering shelter and supplies to those left homeless.

Meanwhile, state agencies have also been doing their part. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is helping skilled and residential care facilities, childcare facilities, and the Women, Infants and Children programs get food and other necessities. DNR is working on improving drinking water and disposing debris. In Perry County alone, the Department of Social Services has secured 250 50-pound boxes of non-perishable food, and Wal-mart has donated 150 cases of bottled water. Other state departments are chipping in, too.



Compassionate volunteers from such organizations as the Missouri Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster, the Missouri Housing Commission, the American Red Cross, the Southern Baptist Relief Organization, and the Salvation Army are helping in long-term recovery efforts,

providing shelter and collecting goods for storm victims. The help from these and other groups is invaluable, and I applaud each volunteer for reaching out to those in need.

As I keep the families of the storm-ravaged areas in my prayers, I also pledge to do what I can to ensure that the state continues to provide effective and efficient disaster

relief. To see how you can help, contact the Red Cross: Perry County (573) 824-5154, Madison County (573) 783-2747.

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 or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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