



THE STOUFFER REPORT

Senator Bill Stouffer
Capitol Building, Room 332

Senate District 21
Jefferson City, MO 65101

For the Week of:
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Dealing With Winter Weather Conditions

The first day of winter officially begins on December 22. However, winter weather didn't wait for the start of the season. Ice — as much as an inch thick in some areas — covered trees, power lines, streets, and cars. Nearly one million homes and businesses were without power after the storm swept through the Midwest, closing schools and canceling flights.

Utilities in our state reported about 170,000 homes and businesses without power. At least 24 deaths, including three in Missouri, have been blamed on the winter storm system that brought waves of sleet and freezing rain.

Officials in Missouri, as well as neighboring states, declared states of emergency. The governor activated the [State Emergency Operations Center](#) (SEOC), the [State Emergency Management Agency](#) (SEMA), and the [Missouri National Guard](#) to ensure our state resources were positioned to aid Missouri communities impacted by the severe winter storms.

A toll-free hotline (888-377-2100) was set up to assist Missourians with shelter and warming center questions. Warming centers and shelter locations are posted on the state's home page at www.mo.gov under featured links. The hotline was also established to accept donations and provide volunteer information to help those who were affected by the weather.

The president approved the governor's request for federal assistance for our state, which will bring federal resources to help save lives, protect property, and safeguard public health and safety.

MORE

State resources have already helped local communities in need:

- The Department of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Social Services assisted with shelters across the state.
- The Department of Natural Resources worked with local water districts to ensure citizens had safe drinking water.
- The Office of Administration helped coordinate local jurisdiction requests for emergency power.
- The Missouri State Highway Patrol assisted motorists and traffic management as MoDOT cleared roads.

To aid in emergency relief efforts, the Missouri Department of Transportation waived certain state and federal regulations for carriers who participated in emergency response. MoDOT also provides several tools for Missourians in order to promote safer travels on our roadways.

The [Traveler Information Map](#) gives drivers an up-to-the-minute view of road conditions on major highways throughout our state. In addition, information on winter weather, such as which roads are plowed first, how to properly clear your driveway, and winter weather driving tips are available on the site.

For more information about winter weather travel, visit www.modot.com. For more information about how the state handles winter weather or if you have questions or comments about any other issue, please call my office toll free (866) 768-3987 or send me an e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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