



MISSOURI SENATE

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Sen. Mayer Advises Caution During Flooding and Commends Relief Workers for Assisting Residents

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, expressed concern today for citizens affected by yesterday’s torrential downpours and flooding in southeastern Missouri and announced that Gov. Matt Blunt has issued two state of emergency orders for the region to assist local governments and agencies in responding to the water-related emergency.

Up to 10 inches of rain fell across major portions of southeast Missouri yesterday, which left many residents stranded in rising flood waters, others fleeing to temporary shelters, hundreds of roads closed, and many residents without water, electricity or phone service. At least four deaths in Missouri have been attributed to weather-related events from the storm.

“Our primary concern is to ensure the safety of our citizens and to make sure they have all the resources available to assist them during this crisis,” Sen. Mayer said. “A coordinated emergency response is underway and will require everyone’s cooperation.”

Sen. Mayer asked area residents to take the advice of Missouri’s State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) officials and avoid driving through standing water of any height, to prevent children from playing in or near floodwaters, and to seek shelter if your home is inhabitable or threatened by floodwaters.

“Flood warnings are still issued in most of our counties and we need to do all that we can to confront this dangerous and life-threatening situation,” Sen. Mayer said.

The community of Piedmont in Wayne County was particularly hard-hit by the storm. Officials there report six inches of water struck the downtown area earlier today, affecting 25-30 homes in the Montgomery subdivision and a total of about 300 homes. Search and rescue operations were on-going in rural areas and were beginning to subside, and shelters have been opened to accommodate at least 56 people needing food and shelter. Hundreds were forced to flee their homes and several roads were closed. The municipal water system is out and a water boil order is in effect and there is no long distance phone service.

“I commend Wayne County officials and all other agencies that are working to offer relief and assistance to people in Piedmont,” Sen. Mayer said. “The major rains are supposed to end today, so this should aid relief workers’ efforts to address the major concerns of that area.”

In other areas of the region, SEMA reported floodwaters in Ripley County caused two families to remain trapped earlier today due to high water around their homes, with several other water rescues successfully reported. In New Madrid County, some sandbagging was reported, with Howardsville reporting some water-related issues. Emergency workers in Stoddard County sandbagged one business

near Puxico and additional bags were sent to the area. Officials there are closely watching for the possibility of more flooding if more water is released from nearby Lake Wappapello.

Sen. Mayer thanked the governor, SEMA, all participating local, state and federal agencies and the hundreds of volunteers working to ensure the safety of residents affected by yet another in a series of disaster weather occurrences that have plagued the area in recent years.

“We are fortunate to have very talented people, capable resources and the ability to confront these weather-related situations when they arise,” Sen. Mayer said. “Unfortunately, for southeastern Missouri, they have occurred a lot in just the last year in the form of ice, flooding and storms.”

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Senator Rob Mayer represents the people of Wayne, Ripley, Butler, Stoddard, New Madrid, Pemiscot and Dunklin counties in the Missouri Senate.