



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Jason Crowell Monitoring Help for Southeast Missouri After Devastating Winter Weather

JEFFERSON CITY– Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, today met with state agencies in order to confirm residents in Southeast Missouri affected by this week’s winter weather would be receiving all the help the state of Missouri can offer. The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) is coordinating the response to ensure the safety of Southeast Missouri residents.

“This is an emergency situation, and I am working to ensure that all measures are being taken by the state so that members of our community are safe and receiving the help they need,” said Sen. Crowell. “I understand and care about the hardships and hazards families and individuals are facing, and I want them to know that I am doing everything I can to get them help.”

Yesterday (2/12) the governor activated SEMA to coordinate a response to the situation. State agencies and the Missouri National Guard reported to the State Emergency Operations Center early yesterday to respond to disaster related emergency resource requests from local governments. State resources are currently being directed to assist localities in ensuring the welfare of those in effected areas.

In Cape Girardeau County, there is still heavy tree and power pole damage and lots of wires are down. SEMA is estimating that Cape Girardeau County has some 5,000 customers without power, and Ameren UE has more than 1,000 tree trimmers, field checkers and other dedicated storm responders in the area. The City of Cape Girardeau has considerable debris and has responded to over 2,000 citizens’ calls for assistance. About 2,000 customers in Bollinger County are without power. While major highways in both counties are clear, some secondary roads are closed including Route B in Bollinger County, Route Y in Cape County, and Route V in Cape County.

State agencies are being utilized to help the areas involved. The Department of Conservation is sending crews to clear debris off county gravel roads in Bollinger County, and the Department of Social Services is working with the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army on warming center and shelter operations. Missouri's 211 Service is now available for most areas of Missouri to assist citizens with disaster information and referrals. In areas where 211 is not in operation, citizens may call 800-427-4626.

“After steps have been taken to make sure that the situation is safe and that the lives of Southeast Missourians are protected, we will then begin to assess the lasting damage,” said Sen. Crowell. “It will take the strength and caring that I know all of us in this community have to rebuild and repair after this devastating event.”

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