

MISSOURI SENATE

Jason Crowell 27th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 323 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release: March 19, 2008

Contact: Bev Schuelen (573) 751-2459

Sen. Jason Crowell Working to Get Help to Those Affected by Severe Weather and Flooding

JEFFERSON CITY- Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, today took steps to ensure that Southeast Missourians have access to state resources as floods continue to ravage the area. The governor has signed two State of Emergency executive orders to activate the State Emergency Operations Center and allow state agencies to provide aid to communities in need.

"My prayers are with those who are currently facing the danger caused by this severe weather and flooding," said Sen. Crowell. "I am working to make sure that resources are available and these Missourians are safe."

This morning, Cape Girardeau County reported that 5.4 inches of rain have fallen in the area, causing local streets to flood. In Bollinger County, major flooding has been occurring. The Missouri Department of Transportation has closed several routes due to flooding in Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, and Perry counties. The Department of Conservation and Missouri State Water Patrol are working in these areas to perform water rescues and help those in danger from the flooding.

Other state agencies activated for duty include Missouri Department of Public Safety, State Emergency Management Agency, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Division of Fire Safety, Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Senior Services, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Social Services, Department of Transportation, Office of Administration, and the Missouri National Guard. Missourians who need resource referrals or non-emergency help are urged to utilize Missouri's 211 Service. In areas where 211 is not operational, citizens may call 800-427-4626.

"This coordinated emergency response will progress as rain continues to fall in the area," said Sen. Crowell. "I am urging citizens and families in the area to take all precautions necessary to keep themselves safe."

-END-