



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 Works Together as Waters Rise



Over the past several years, it seems that our community has been through its fair share of disasters. Tornadoes, ice storms, and now floods have created dangerous and taxing times for families in Southeast Missouri. During each of these disasters, state agencies spring into action and begin a coordinated emergency

response to help those needing shelter or rescue. This week, as the rains continued and danger rose, the State Emergency Management Agency worked to make sure that state officials and agencies, non-profit organizations, and local governments were working together to keep residents safe. The members of our community will continue to band together to help the victims of this flood, just as we have done during other unfortunate and disastrous events.

A cold front that rolled into Missouri on Monday brought with it heavy rain storms. As the rain continued to fall, it was evident that flooding was a possibility, and my main priority was that the citizens in our community were safe and had access to all necessary resources. This concern remains as many in the area have



been evacuated and are currently staying in one of the many shelters set up by the Department of Social Services and American Red Cross. Resources for water rescues have also been utilized. National Guard members and Missouri State Water Patrol officers are being assisted by the Coast Guard to ensure the welfare of Missourians. Unfortunately, there have been lives lost, including a resident of Jackson whose truck was swept off the road by waters in Marble Hill. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are grieving, and I send my condolences to the families suffering from this tragedy.



Flooding can wreak havoc on homes and properties, and unfortunately, many of the resulting damages are uninsured. We are already looking forward to the time when the waters recede and the rebuilding of our homes and communities can begin. The state has asked the federal government to quickly approve disaster declarations for both

individual assistance and public assistance to cover uninsured damages in affected areas. Preliminary damage assessments will be requested as soon as flood waters recede enough to allow access to damaged areas. A Presidential Disaster Declaration may be awarded if a disaster causes damage that is widespread (over several counties) and exceeds \$6 million in

uninsured damages.

State agencies are still working on relief efforts. These agencies include:

- [The](#) State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), which has activated the State Emergency Operations Center to a 24-hour basis.
- The Department of Conservation, which is assisting local governments with evacuations.
- The Department of Health and Senior Services, which is assessing the affects of flooding on local nursing homes, hospitals and health clinics and sending staff to facilities in need.
- The Department of Mental Health, which is continuing to check any facilities in case of problems.
- The Department of Natural Resources, which is working to ascertain the status of public drinking water and wastewater treatment plants. Water Resources staff are continuing to monitor river levels while dam safety staff are responding to safety issues.
- The Department of Social Services, which is working with the Red Cross to get local shelters open and make sure care is available.
- The Department of Transportation, which is keeping the public up to date on road closures on its website at www.modot.mo.gov.
- The Missouri National Guard, which has teams moving forward to assist in Marble Hill and Piedmont. National Guard members have been activated for State Emergency Duty.
- The Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office, which has been activated to deliver mutual aid and has dispatched HazMat teams.
- The Missouri State Highway Patrol, which is assisting stranded motorists, assisting local communities in closing highways, and helping with evacuations.
- The Missouri State Water Patrol, which has officers assisting with water rescues in several counties.
- The Office of Administration, which is onsite at the State Emergency Operations Center to assist local jurisdictions with their resource needs.

Many in Southeast Missouri are not out of danger yet as concerns about the rising Mississippi River remain. The National Weather Service predicted a Sunday crest of 44.5 feet on the Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau, a level that would be one of the highest in recorded history. We will continue to monitor the situation as state agencies collaborate on providing effective emergency efforts. I want you to know that, while we have no control over this disastrous weather, emergency relief is organized and available.

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.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

Contact Information

Capitol Office
State Capitol Building
Room 323
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Website:
<http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>

Phone Number:
573.751.2459
Fax:
573.522.9289