



!!! STORM RECOVERY ALERT !!!

FROM THE OFFICE OF U.S. CONGRESSMAN DAN BOREN

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Following last weekend's ice storm – and with more winter weather on the way – I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you an update on joint state and federal response efforts, as well as contact information for my offices and relevant agencies, should you need assistance as cleanup efforts continue. Responding to such a devastating storm can be overwhelming for local communities and counties, and I want to do whatever I can as your representative in Congress to ease the burden.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION – Over the weekend, Gov. Brad Henry declared a state emergency, and on Sunday asked President Bush for a federal emergency declaration. Within 12 hours, the White House granted the governor's request and activated Category B public assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE – Category B assistance provides immediate federal resources for emergency protective measures. More specifically, FEMA is providing generators, bottled water and funding for shelters. Generators have been delivered to several locations in Eastern Oklahoma including McIntosh, Pittsburg, Mayes and Muskogee counties. Water treatment plants and shelters were the first to receive the generators so public water systems could continue to operate and shelters could provide a safe place for residents. An additional 100 generators and a large supply of bottled water was delivered by FEMA to a staging area in McAlester. The generators are being delivered to community facilities throughout Oklahoma that serve the public such as public water services, shelters, police and fire departments and organizations supporting shelters.

MORE ASSISTANCE – Gov. Henry today announced he will seek additional federal aid through a major disaster declaration. If approved by President Bush, such a declaration will allow communities and individuals to seek federal assistance for damages inflicted by the winter storm. State and federal teams must complete damage assessments in the affected areas before FEMA can act on the governor's request. I am working closely with the governor's office and the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management to ensure a speedy approval process when additional federal resources are requested. As with the wildfires last year, I expect the state will request assistance for debris removal (Category A) and aid for individual families impacted by the storm.

CONTACT – The full resources of my congressional offices are available to help your community recover from these storms. I have included contact information for my office, as well as relevant agencies. Should you have any questions about where to turn for assistance, do not hesitate to contact my office.

U.S. CONGRESSMAN DAN BOREN..... 918-687-2533

Contact: Michael Allen, Special Projects Director

STATE DEPT. OF EMERGENCY MGMT. 405-521-2481

Contact: Albert Ashwood, Director