



MISSOURI SENATE

Rob Mayer
25th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

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Senator Rob Mayer Works to Aid Winter Storm Damage Victims

JEFFERSON CITY — State Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, today is continuing his efforts to help the tens of thousands of residents and businesses in Southeast Missouri who are reeling from the effects of a two-day winter storm that left the majority of southeast Missouri counties covered in ice and without power.

“My main priority is that our citizens in southeast Missouri are safe and have access to the resources they need,” Sen. Mayer said. “I also want to remind everyone during this weather emergency to stay away from downed or sagging power lines, and if a power line falls across your vehicle, stay in the vehicle and call for help. Safety should be of the utmost importance, and I urge everyone to take extreme caution in this situation.”

The storm, which began Monday and hit in full force on Tuesday, dumped snow, sleet and ice over the entire region, including Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley and Stoddard counties. More than 100,000 outages were reported south of Interstate 44 and across southeast Missouri, and officials say it could take up to five days before power is completely restored. More than 25 road closures have been reported and at least five traffic fatalities in central and southern Missouri are blamed on the storm.

To help those displaced by the winter storm, the Department of Social Services is working with the American Red Cross and other local agencies and has opened at least 19 shelters, including 13 in the 25th District. They include:

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Pemiscot County - Calvary Baptist Church, 192 County Hwy. 344, Hayti, 573-359-1625.

Ripley County - Church of God, 506 Pine St., Doniphan, 573-996-2999.

New Madrid County - First Baptist Church, 608 De Lisle Ave., Portageville, 573-379-5340; New Madrid Community Center, 1199 Mill St., New Madrid (no phone); and VFW Hall, Hwy. D, Lilbourn, 573-688-9797.

Butler County - New Covenant Church, 3191 Oak Grove Road, Poplar Bluff, 573-785-5466.

Dunklin County - Slicer St. Church of Christ, 310 Slicer St., Kennett, 573-888-5974.

Stoddard County – Community Center, Bernie; vacant Farm Bureau building, Bloomfield; City Hall, 281 E. Owen Ave., Puxico, 573-222-3478; old junior high gymnasium on Park Lane, Dexter; First General Baptist Church, 811 W. Gabriel St., Advance, 573-722-5155; and Assembly of God Church, 209 Trotter St., Essex, 573-283-5577.

Families seeking shelter are being urged to use these resources.

State agencies working on relief efforts include:

- The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), which has activated the State Emergency Operations Center to a 24-hour basis.
- The Department of Natural Resources, which is working to assist the Public Service Commission in getting water utilities and issuing information on disinfecting water.
- The Department of Transportation, which continues to work on affected roads. Some closures on I-44 have resulted from power lines over the road.
- The Department Social Services, which is working with local agencies to track 19 shelters opened with over 150 residents.
- The Department of Health and Senior Services, which has its disaster situation room in action and is putting out safety information on chainsaw safety and generator safety.
- The Department of Conservation, which has officers assisting local jurisdictions.
- The Missouri Highway Patrol, which is assisting with working accidents and keeping highways cleared of accidents.

Other state agencies are on standby and will respond if needed.

“Response to this latest weather emergency has been swift, and I want to thank everyone involved who is helping with the relief efforts,” Sen. Mayer said. “I also want to ask area residents for their patience during this time and to assure them that relief efforts are organized and resources are available.”

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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.