

Umatilla County Emergency Management

Emergency News Release

-- For immediate release --

January 4, 2008 8:55pm
Windstorm Release #2

Contact: Dawn Blalack, Public Information Officer
(541) 966-3706 desk / (541) 969-7587 cell

Umatilla County Declares State of Emergency

Pendleton, Ore. – The Umatilla County Director of Emergency Management has reported to the County Board of Commissioners that a severe winter storm accompanied by wind gusts of 80 miles per hour occurred in Umatilla County. The cities of Adams, Athena, Milton-Freewater, Pilot Rock, and Weston and the surrounding rural areas have been hardest hit by wind damage.

The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners has declared a State of Emergency for Umatilla County effective January 4, 2008. The commissioners have requested the Governor of the State of Oregon to provide aid, assistance, and resources to Umatilla County as necessary.

Extensive damage has occurred to private structures, businesses and public buildings, road closures, utility lines and infrastructure. Hundreds of residents are without power and may be displaced due to lack of heat and water. Some homes will not be inhabitable due to tree damage and fire caused by downed power lines. Debris from roofs, fences and trees has created a major cleanup problem. Based on early estimates, the damage exceeds \$500,000.

American Red Cross is on standby to open shelters in the area. Citizens needing assistance, including shelter, should call Umatilla County at 541-966-3651.

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