

Baca County Division of Emergency Management

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FOR RELEASE:

Thursday, December 21, 2006

(SPRINGFIELD, COLORADO) The Baca County Commissioners have declared Baca County a county wide disaster. This decision allows the county to use TABOR reserve funds to help respond to situations created by this week's blizzard-like conditions, including clearing county roads blocked by snow and ice.

Governor Bill Owens also declared the state of Colorado a statewide disaster due to ongoing blizzard conditions. The Governor's declaration will free up additional resources to help fight the worsening weather. Owens has also activated the Colorado National Guard to assist in road safety.

Current Highway closures include Highway 287 closed at Lamar; Highway 160 closed from Walsenburg to the Kansas State Line; Interstate 70 and E-470 (Denver) to the Kansas border; Interstate 25 (Castle Rock) to the New Mexico border except from Walsenburg to Pueblo; Interstate 76 from Denver to the Nebraska border; Highways 96 and 287 from Eads; Highway 86 to Limon, most mountain passes, many other local highways and roads. While crews are working to clear roadways, unnecessary travel is still discouraged. The license plate number of any vehicle that passes a roadblock is being recorded, and if the vehicle is later found stuck or abandoned, a fine will be imposed.

For road and other conditions CDOT has a website where they post the up-to-the-minute conditions. www.cotrip.org

For more information, contact Riley Frazee, Director of the Baca County Division of Emergency Management at 719-523-6796.

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