

Baca County Division of Emergency Management

Riley Frazee, Director

741 Main Street

Springfield, CO 81073

719-523-6796

FOR RELEASE:

Thursday, December 21, 2006

(SPRINGFIELD, COLORADO) The Baca County Division of Emergency Management has announced that a shelter will be established at the Methodist Church in Springfield for motorists stranded by today's highway closures and blizzard conditions. Amenities are currently limited to a place to sleep, water, and restrooms, but can be expanded if prolonged sheltering will be needed. Restaurants in the area are continuing to operate. All motel / hotel rooms in Springfield are full.

The church is located at 901 Colorado Street. To get to the church turn off of Main Street and go west one block to Colorado Street.

The church can be contacted at 719-523-4425.

Hwy 160 Westbound closed and 287 at Lamar is Closed to Limon Hwy 116 from 287/385 closed to the Kansas State Line. Road conditions will worsen as the temperature drops for the evening and the wind continues to blow. Travel in the area is not advised.

Blowing snow conditions are extremely hazardous. White out conditions may exist in SE Colorado. These conditions should be considered life-threatening, and similar conditions in past storms have lead to deaths. Blizzard-like conditions are expected to continue in to Friday Morning.

Motorists who become stranded before reaching shelter should NOT leave their vehicles. Run the motor for 10 minutes per hour to keep warm, and make certain the exhaust pipes are kept clear. Due to conditions, receiving assistance may take some time, but the safest course of action will be staying in your vehicle.

Governor Bill Owens has declared a state-wide disaster due to the ongoing blizzard conditions. The Governor's declaration will free up additional resources to help fight the worsening weather.

General information about emergency services is available from the Baca County Division of Emergency Management, 719-523-6796, or the Baca County Sheriff's Office, 719-523-4511. For immediate emergencies, dial 911.

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