

State Representative  
Cliff Bentz  
House District 60

PRESS RELEASE: January 25, 2017

CONTACT: Representative Cliff Bentz  
503-986-1460



## **Rep. Bentz Calls Out Snow Removal/Damage Resources for District 60 Residents**

ONTARIO—Representative Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) has received numerous calls and emails requesting information about snow removal/damage resources. Rep. Bentz’s staff has compiled the following not-all-inclusive list of resources his office has so far been able to identify.

Rep. Bentz said, “Oregon Governor Kate Brown’s Declaration of a State of Emergency for the entire State of Oregon authorizes her to utilize state resources in an uncommon way. However, since Oregon does not have a state fund for this specific type of emergency, the declaration only allows the Governor to utilize resources the state already has at its disposal. With local city and county resources significantly reduced, the importance and value of volunteer groups and resources has never been greater. Their help will be vital if we are to save buildings and protect the public.”

“So far, Oregon has not qualified for a federal Disaster Declaration. The Governor cannot request such a declaration until all State, City, and County resources have been exhausted. My office is working with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management in an effort to compile the facts and data necessary for such a declaration. For example, the state must be able to show that it has incurred at least \$5.5 million (app.) in public (not private) damages,” added Rep. Bentz.

What follows is a partial list of resources:

### **Cities/Counties:**

Cities and Counties can contact their County Emergency Manager to put in requests for assistance through the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, who can then coordinate with state agencies for assistance depending on the specific need (Examples: DOC for inmate work crews, ODOT for road emergencies, etc.):

#### **Baker County Emergency Management (Baker City)**

Jason Yencopal, 541-523-8200

[jyencopal@bakercounty.org](mailto:jyencopal@bakercounty.org)

#### **Grant County Emergency Management (Canyon City)**

Ted Williams, 541-575-4006

[williamst@grantcounty-or.gov](mailto:williamst@grantcounty-or.gov)

#### **Harney County Emergency Services (Burns)**

Capitol Office: 900 Court St. NE, H-475, Salem, OR 97301—Phone: 503-986-1460

District Office: 258 S. Oregon St., P.O. Box 1027, Ontario, OR 97914—Phone: 541-889-8866

[rep.cliffbentz@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:rep.cliffbentz@oregonlegislature.gov)

Loren Emang, 541-589-2423  
[loren.emang@co.harney.or.us](mailto:loren.emang@co.harney.or.us)

**Lake County Emergency Services (Lakeview)**

Daniel Tague, 541-947-6027  
[djtague@co.lake.or.us](mailto:djtague@co.lake.or.us)

**Malheur County Emergency Management (Vale)**

Lt. Rob Hunsucker, 541-473-5120  
[rhunsucker@malheurco.org](mailto:rhunsucker@malheurco.org)

## Farmers & Ranchers:

The Farm Service Agency has several programs that may be able to provide reimbursement for certain losses to farmers, ranchers, and producers adversely affected by winter conditions. Ranchers should contact their County Farm Services Officer and Farm Loan Manager to see if they qualify:

- **Livestock Indemnity (LIP)/Dead Cow Program**
  - If rancher has above normal death loss rate of livestock due to a natural event, FSA may be able to compensate the farmer/rancher for 75% of fair market value of livestock. Program is not 10% loss conditioned, it is based on the normal mortality rate of that type of livestock as determined by the State of Oregon. Contact County Executive Director (listed below).
  - See fact sheet for more details: [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2016/lip\\_fact\\_sheet\\_2016.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2016/lip_fact_sheet_2016.pdf)
- **Emergency Livestock Assistant Program (ELAP)**
  - If rancher incurred additional fee costs for the winter, FSA may be able to compensate additional cost. The program does apply to ranchers whose cows normally would be grazing on grass land but now can't because of the snow. Rancher must prove he incurred more fees than usual this winter. If loss happened in 2017, rancher will not be compensated until 2018. Contact County Executive Director (listed below).
  - See fact sheet for more details: [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2016/2016\\_elap\\_for\\_livestock.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2016/2016_elap_for_livestock.pdf)
- **Farm Storage Facility Loans**
  - A producer may obtain a low-interest loan. This could apply to roof collapses of storage facilities *but* the facility must be producer owned. This means the farmer who grew the crop must also be storing the crop. Loan does not apply if a farmer is storing crops of someone else. A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan, with a minimum down payment of 15 percent. Loan terms are up to 12 years, depending on the amount of the loan. Producers must demonstrate storage needs based on three years of production history. FSA also provides a microloan option that, while available to all eligible farmers and ranchers, also should be of particular interest to new or small producers where there is a need for financing options for loans up to \$50,000 at a lower down payment with reduced documentation. The interest rate changes every month but averages at 2 to 3 percent.
  - See fact sheet for more details: [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2016/2016\\_farm\\_storage\\_facility\\_loans.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2016/2016_farm_storage_facility_loans.pdf)
- **County FSA Officer & Farm Loan Managers:**
  - **Baker & Grant Counties**
    - County Executive Director Trent Luschen, 541-523-7121 x 2, [trent.luschen@or.usda.gov](mailto:trent.luschen@or.usda.gov)
    - Farm Loan Manager Jon M. Mills, 541-889-9689 x 111, [jon.mills@or.usda.gov](mailto:jon.mills@or.usda.gov)
  - **Harney County**
    - County Executive Director Kellie Frank, 541-573-6446 x 2, [kellie.frank@or.usda.gov](mailto:kellie.frank@or.usda.gov)
    - Farm Loan Manager Patricia Lynn Modey, 541-573-6446, [patty.modey@or.usda.gov](mailto:patty.modey@or.usda.gov)
  - **Lake County**
    - County Executive Director Marti J. Hamilton, 541-947-2367 x 2, [Marti.Hamilton@or.usda.gov](mailto:Marti.Hamilton@or.usda.gov)
    - Farm Loan Manager James A. Jutson, 541-673-6071 x 2, [jim.jutson@or.usda.gov](mailto:jim.jutson@or.usda.gov)

- **Malheur County**

- County Executive Director Wes Jennings, 541-889-9689 x 105, [wes.jennings@or.usda.gov](mailto:wes.jennings@or.usda.gov)
- Farm Loan Manager Jon M. Mills, 541-889-9689 x 111, [jon.mills@or.usda.gov](mailto:jon.mills@or.usda.gov)

### Local Businesses:

Federal Small Business Administration loans, Economic Development Administration loans, and federal or state tax relief may become in the future available pending a federal Disaster Declaration by Governor Kate Brown's office. Contact the Oregon Office of Emergency Management for more information at 503-378-2911.

### Residents:

- **Sandbags**—free self-serve sandbags are available for Malheur County residents for flood prevention.
  - Ontario—Fire Station #2—3288 SW 4th Avenue, Ontario
    - Hours: Today (1/24/17) and Wednesday (1/25/17) from 4-6pm. At all other hours the sand will be available, but residents will need to bring their own sandbags.
- **Emergency Reverse 9-1-1 Notifications**
  - Baker County “Emergency Public Notification System (Reverse 9-1-1)”  
<http://www.bakercity.com/2216/Disaster-Preparedness>
  - Grant County Emergency alert system sign-up -  
<http://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/public.aspx?regionID=1170>
  - Malheur County Emergency alerts sign-up -  
<http://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/?regionid=1021>
- **Volunteer Snow Removal Crews**
  - **Pine Valley/Halfway Snow Team—Volunteers** (fill out form for assistance)  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13mMTxqWt9Um\\_1mLfUteJgJC3jzxqf7hqFGBA0auzH10/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13mMTxqWt9Um_1mLfUteJgJC3jzxqf7hqFGBA0auzH10/viewform?edit_requested=true)
  - **Huntington—Volunteers**  
Helping those in need with snow removal from roofs, driveways, carports, and awnings. Call Huntington City Hall at 541-869-2202 to provide your name and address.
  - **Christian Disaster Relief Crew—Volunteers**  
Assisting senior and disabled with snow removal from roofs in Malheur County and on the Idaho side. (Donations Accepted) Contact: Shaylan Unruh at 541-709-7606 or Gaylin Jantz at 541-216-0536.
  - **Baker County Juvenile Dept.—Youth Volunteers**  
Youth juvenile dept. community service crews volunteering with on-ground snow removal. (Donations Accepted). Contact: Ray Day, Youth Accountability Officer at 541-523-8215
- **Snow Removal Kits**
  - Baker County Library has a couple of “avalanche-type” snow roof removal kits available for public checkout for 24 hours. Borrowers must have a library card. \$10 late fee for late returns. To get on the waiting list, call 541-523-6419.

### Insurance Claims

Insurance claims are complex and extremely important processes. Be absolutely certain of the nature and extent of your loss before accepting a settlement of your claim. Further information concerning the insurance claim process can be found through the Oregon Department of Consumer & Business Services at: <http://dfr.oregon.gov/gethelp/ins->

[help/home/Documents/4845-20\\_storms.pdf](help/home/Documents/4845-20_storms.pdf). You can also call their Consumer Advocacy Hotline with questions at: 1-888-877-4894.

If you know of any additional volunteer groups or organizations that are offering free snow-removal assistance for seniors and the disabled, please contact Rep. Bentz's District Office in Ontario with the information at 541-889-8866 or via email at [rep.cliffbentz@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:rep.cliffbentz@oregonlegislature.gov) so they can update the list.

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