

BOB DOLE



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FEDERAL DISASTER AID ANNOUNCED FOR ATCHISON, JACKSON, AND DONIPHAN COUNTIES

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum today announced that the Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared Atchison, Jackson, and Doniphan counties eligible for federal disaster assistance. The three counties in northeast Kansas suffered extensive damages when a tornado struck the area on April 26, 1984. Designation of the disaster areas by James Sanders, Administrator of the SBA, makes loans available at special interest rates for physical damages to homes and businesses and for economic injury to businesses.

"While the storm cut a wide path of destruction, we are relieved to know that the damage assessment has moved along steadily and that decisions are being made promptly," said the Senators. "It is impossible to evaluate the personal toll this has taken on the people, but they have shown a strong community spirit and have rallied along with local leaders to rebuild."

"Damage figures have been set at \$2 million by the Kansas Emergency Preparedness Office in the immediate area of Effingham and at slightly over \$3 million for the three-county rural area," said Dole. "Isabell Farrell, Mayor of Effingham, has told my staff that 14 displaced families have been identified."

SBA will be setting up an office in the Effingham City Hall on Monday which will remain open from Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., through May 25th. Assistance will be available in processing loan applications for physical damage, with a closing date of July 9, 1984. Interest rates are 8% for qualifying homeowners and businesses with credit available elsewhere and 4% for homeowners and businesses without credit available elsewhere.

The same office will accept applications from businesses and nonprofit organizations which have suffered economic injury. The closing date is February 11, 1985. Loans are 4% for businesses without credit available elsewhere and 10.5% for nonprofit organizations and others.

A letter with a damage assessment report requesting disaster aid from the Farmers Home Administration is enroute to FmHA Administrator Charles W. Shuman. If approved, farmers may be eligible for both programs.