

NEWS

FROM:

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

R WALT BIKER

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER (202) 224-5358

DOLE SAYS SEDGWICK, COWLEY, BUTLER COUNTIES

QUALIFY FOR FEDERAL TORNADO AID;

FEMA DECLARATION TO HELP REBUILD PUBLIC FACILITIES

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today announced the latest federal relief effort on behalf of Kansas tornado victims as the Federal Emergency Management Agency has declared that Cowley, Butler and Sedgwick counties have officially qualified as eligible for public assistance funds.

"Damage to public property has been significant, and there is no way these hard-hit communities can foot the bill to rebuild schools, hospitals, roads and bridges," Dole said. "We have been working closely with FEMA officials to make certain Kansas gets its fair share of attention and assistance. I am pleased they have taken this next logical and necessary step."

The public assistance fund is a federal and state matching program where the federal government picks up 75% of the cost of rebuilding public facilities. Repair of rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities also will qualify under today's announcement. Eligible communities can now make application for federal aid, which has been put on a fast-track in Congress by Senator Dole.