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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

DOLE, MAYOR FINLASON ANNOUNCE ARRIVAL OF ANDOVER TORNADO SIRENS;
TEMPORARY WARNING SYSTEMS TO GUARD ANDOVER
UNTIL INSTALLATION OF NEW SIRENS SECURED BY DOLE

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) and Andover, Kansas Mayor Jack Finlason today announced that two tornado sirens arrived in Andover this afternoon to supplement the town's existing siren, which did not function when deadly tornadoes touched down on April 26th.

The arrival of the sirens, on loan from the Coffey County Commission, stemmed from assurances Senator Dole secured from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that extra tornado alarms would be moved to Andover until two new sirens could be installed. On May 9th, Senator Dole won a special administration grant for the two new tornado warning systems. Kansas Gas & Electric will donate the labor and material for the installation of the temporary sirens, which will begin this week.

"This is another great example of how Kansans, local communities and the federal government have worked together to respond to a terrible tragedy," Dole said. "Thanks to the generosity of Coffey County and KG&E, and the responsiveness of FEMA, our neighbors in Andover will have some extra peace of mind until the brand new sirens arrive."

"Two additional sirens combined with our existing siren will give our city an enhanced warning system," Mayor Finlason said. "On behalf of the citizens of Andover, I want to thank Senator Dole, FEMA, Coffey County and KG&E for their efforts in making this a reality."

One siren will be installed in the north sector of Andover, while the other will be installed in the south sector. FEMA has arranged for appropriate testing of the sirens prior to and following installation.

Working with FEMA two weeks ago, Senator Dole was able to move Andover's siren request into a special emergency grant program. Normally, such requests would require a 50/50 percent federal/local funding match. But after Dole's intervention, the federal government will now put down a greater percentage of the cost of the new sirens, reducing the local community's contribution.

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