

News Clippings

March 3, 2009

Emergency Response

Brazil

Commissioners approve Hazmat grant

[Read the Article](#)

Indianapolis

Daniels requests federal aid for 15 southern counties

[Read the Article](#)

Fire

Columbus

Brown County Deputies to be honored for heroism

[Read the Article](#)

Severe Weather

Muncie

Last week's snow cost county \$60,000

[Read the Article](#)

Commissioners approve Hazmat grant

Monday, February 23, 2009

By JASON JACOBS, *Times Staff Reporter*

In times of hazardous chemical spills, the area should be more prepared.

During Monday's special meeting, the Clay County Commissioners unanimously approved a Hazmat grant for District 7 of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Clay County Emergency Management Director Bryan Husband said the grant is for \$31,700 and will go toward reimbursing costs to purchase Hazmat equipment.

"It will cover the costs of a lot of miscellaneous equipment," Husband said. "Some of it will be for upkeep, some for the recertification of chemical testing equipment, some for replacing old equipment and other things that are needed."

He added the grant money would not go to emergency responders in Clay County, but it would benefit the area.

"District 7 is made up of eight counties, and the grant will be going to the Greencastle and Terre Haute fire departments and V-Care, which is out of Vigo County," Husband said. "V-Care is the main agency we call for assistance in Hazmat situations in Clay County, but they are all there to assist. It is always good to have more than one option for assistance in case one of them is out on another call."

Clay County acts as the fiscal agent for District 7, which also consists of Greene, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo counties.

Husband said the grant is coming from federal funds, which were originally distributed in 2006.

"With many of these grants, you have three years to use the money to complete projects," he said. "There are times when project costs are less than the grant given, which can leave leftover money to be distributed."

The commissioners also reviewed quotes for the replacement of Bridge No. 24, located on County Road 500 E, approximately one-quarter mile north of United States 40.

In a meeting on Feb. 2, Commissioners' President Charlie Brown said work on the bridge had been pushed back many months due to the imperativeness of other projects which needed to be completed immediately following the major flooding in June 2008.

BLS Contractors, Bowling Green, was awarded the work with the lowest quote (\$46,500) for the replacement of the bridge, in comparison to Brown's Land Improvement, Inc., Staunton (\$51,500), and L & B Construction, Brazil (\$49,841.62), which also submitted quotes for consideration.

The next regular meeting of the Clay County Commissioners will be Monday, March 2, at 9 a.m., in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Clay County Courthouse.

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[Back to Top](#)

[Indiana Daily Student - IDSnews.com](http://www.IDSnews.com)

Daniels requests federal aid for 15 southern counties

January storms wiped out trees, power lines

By VINCE ZITO | IDS | March 02, 2009

Counties asking for federal funding for storm damage are still waiting to find out whether their request has been accepted.

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels requested federal funding for 15 Indiana counties that sustained damages during a Jan. 26 winter storm that resulted in fallen power lines and tree limbs and damage to public infrastructure.

“The federal funds would inherit the cost of repair of the public infrastructure in the 15 counties,” Rachel Meyer, media contact for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, said.

Meyer said Daniels sent a letter to President Barack Obama with a chart breakdown of how much estimated money is needed. He said Obama has the power to affirm or deny the request or issue an alternate amount of funds.

All the counties requesting federal assistance are situated in the southern part of the state, which includes Floyd, Warrick and Crawford counties.

Expenditures for Floyd County totaled about \$1.9 million, said Terry Herthel, director of the county’s emergency management.

Herthel said the assistance would go toward reimbursement for debris removal.

“In Floyd County there was not a lot of structural damage; rather, there were downed trees and power outages,” Herthel said.

He said Floyd County, along with the other 14 counties, if proved eligible, would receive 75 percent of the approved cost of damages incurred. Private electrical companies are not eligible for the federal funding.

Warrick County, located to the west of Floyd County, also needs assistance, and Dallas S. Scott, Warrick County’s director of emergency management, said the estimate is \$800,000. Like Floyd County, the reimbursement would go mainly to the cleanup of debris, such as ice and snow removal and the removal of downed power lines and trees. The storm left 27,000 customers in Warrick County without power, Scott said.

Crawford County is asking for \$149,000 in federal aid, some of which is for power. However, portions of this county are powered by cooperative power companies, meaning they are not privately run, said Kent Barrow, director of Crawford County’s emergency management.

“Parts of Crawford County receive power from Dubois and Harrison County,” Barrow said.

Companies that are not privately run are eligible for federal assistance.

Daniels sent the request for funding Feb. 20, but there is no guarantee the counties will receive the amount of money they requested.

“We have not received any word if the request was accepted or denied,” Meyer said.

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[Back to Top](#)



Monday, March 02, 2009

Brown Co. deputies to be honored for heroism

Monday, March 02, 2009

Brown County Sheriff's Deputies Rick Followell and Bill Southerland will be presented the Indiana Medal of Valor Wednesday at a ceremony at the sheriff's office. The deputies were honored for their heroic actions during a home burning.

Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson will present the officers with the state award during a ceremony at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the sheriff's office meeting room.

The officers and the motorist who called 911 about the Feb. 4 fire also will be recognized by the Brown County Volunteer Fire Association.

The motorist, Brett Dudley, spotted the early morning fire at a home on Indiana 46 West, and flames were through the roof.

The officers ran inside the burning home and rescued Mark Badgely, 53.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the award ceremony.

Information: 988-1422.

[Back to Top](#)

February 5, 2009

Last week's snow cost county \$60,000

City figures were unavailable Wednesday, but Mayor McShurley said Muncie only had enough money for about one more big storm.

By NICK WERNER

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MUNCIE -- Last week's snow storm cost the Delaware County Highway Department \$60,000 between Tuesday and Sunday, according to figures reported this week by county commissioners.

The majority of that cost, which is in addition to routine expenses, is for overtime and fuel.

County commissioners President Todd Donati said he was working with State Rep. Dennis Tyler, D-Muncie, and Indiana's Department of Homeland Security to see if Delaware County would be eligible for federal disaster relief to offset snow removal costs.

Federal relief generally reimburses local governments at 75 percent of the total costs of disaster response.

John Erickson, spokesman of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, said the state was still gathering information and researching whether local governments would be eligible for federal aid.

Eligibility would depend on several variables, including whether last week's snowfall was a record or near record for the state.

Muncie Deputy Mayor Dick Shirey, who is also the city's interim street superintendent, said Tuesday he did not yet have figures for how much the storm cost the city.

The city only had enough money to budget \$10,000 in overtime for the street department and is already out, Shirey said.

The city is also fast exhausting its salt supply, Shirey said.

At Monday's city council meeting, Mayor Sharon McShurley publicly announced the city was struggling after last week's storm.

"We might be able to weather one more big storm and then we'll be in a financial crunch," she said before this Tuesday's snowfall, which did not prove as significant as last week's storm.

Additional Facts

Snow removal spending

Last week's snow storm cost the Delaware County Highway Department an additional \$60,000 in overtime, salt, fuel and other expenses (not including routine, daily costs).

- Overtime: \$27,511
- Salt/sand: \$6,775
- Gasoline: \$2,312
- Diesel: \$16,912
- Towing: \$250
- Repairs: \$5,200
- Mailbox replacement: \$1,000

[Back to Top](#)