



## ***Marion County*** OREGON

**For immediate release:** February 1, 2008

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### **Marion County Submits Declaration of Emergency Request to Assist Cities of Detroit and Idanha**

Today, Marion County submitted a request for a declaration of emergency to Governor Ted Kulongoski to seek assistance with snow related issues two of its cities (Detroit and Idanha) have been facing and will continue to face in the next few weeks.

The City of Detroit experienced 153 inches of snow between December 21, 2007 and January 30, 2008. Detroit currently has four feet of snow on the ground and Idanha measured 62" on the ground. Snow and rain are in the forecast, adding weight to already heavily laden roofs and trees, which are hanging over power lines.

Both cities are struggling with repeated power outages due to downed lines. Detroit is not currently able to provide a generator, cots, blankets or food for the citizens of Detroit and Idanha.

Although both cities have an emergency plan, the resources are not nearly adequate to deal with the current snow level and will not be able to cope with the anticipated further accumulation due over the next several days. Both cities' budgets and resources are long exhausted.

In providing assistance to Detroit and Idanha, Marion County's priorities are to move the snow piled up along the roadways to make room for more plowing; getting snow off all water meters so Detroit can find and repair the broken pipes that are causing water loss; opening access to isolated people, especially elderly and ill; assisting with snow removal from roofs; and working with city crews to get propane to the backup generator at the Detroit water plant, so they can maintain water service in case of a power failure.

Marion County personnel are currently on-site, with a small emergency operations center set up at Detroit City Hall, and public works and inmate crews on the job throughout the two cities.

Marion County Commissioner Sam Brentano said: “Marion County has been providing assistance to the communities of Detroit and Idanha in the recent snow-related event. Declaring an emergency will expedite and enhance our ability to protect the people and property of East Marion County.”

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