



Marion County OREGON

For immediate release: Saturday, February 2, 2008

Contact: John Vanderzanden, Emergency Program Manager, Marion County 503-991-6926 or Tanya Beard, Emergency Operations Director, 503-365-3149, or Nelsa Brodie, Public Information Coordinator 503-566-3916.

Update on Efforts to Help Cities of Detroit and Idhana

Early this morning, Marion County public works crews, joined by 40 work crew inmates from the State Department of Corrections headed to Detroit and Idhana in East Marion County to continue efforts to assist those cities to dig out from significant and extreme snowfall. The two cities have received four or more feet of snow in recent days and it is currently snowing there...with more snow expected throughout this weekend.

Additional heavy equipment has been arriving and crews have worked most of this past week. The Red Cross is on hand at Detroit City Hall serving warm meals to the community and providing warming shelter for the work crews and others who may need it. Also, amateur radio operators have been staffing the emergency operations center and are on the ground in Detroit relaying information back and forth between work crews, greatly enhancing communication and helping in the efforts.

The two cities have asked for outside assistance in these main areas:

- Move the snow piled up along the roadways to make room for more plowing;
- Get snow off all water meters so Detroit can find and repair the broken pipes that are causing water loss;
- Open access to isolated people, especially elderly and ill;
- Assist with snow removal from roofs.

Much of today Marion County public works staff will be clearing the roadways and increasing accessibility, while the inmate work crews will be raking the snow-laden roofs. Work efforts will continue on Sunday.

###