



KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

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The following is a column by Governor Kathleen Sebelius:

Weathering the storm

As reported earlier this week, Kansas has seen 172 tornados this year – more than any other state in the nation. This number is three times larger than our yearly average – and the year is only half over.

We have lost friends and neighbors in these storms and several communities have incurred unbelievable destruction. Those who lost their lives, sustained injury or lost homes and businesses have our thoughts, prayers and support.

We have seen storms strike our state again and again, but we have also seen something else – we have seen that remarkable Kansas spirit that brings people together to lift each other out of the rubble and into the open arms of a community.

Kansans are all too familiar with helping one another and rebuilding together after tornadoes devastate communities – but yet their resolve seems to grow stronger with each storm.

I'm once again heartened by how quickly neighbors come to the aid of their fellow Kansans, and how well state partners work to help communities get back on track.

I appreciate our local United Way organizations' willingness to coordinate fundraising efforts that are crucial to the recovery of those in communities impacted by our most recent tornadoes. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and will help Kansans know any funds they give will be handled appropriately and will truly help those intended.

The severe weather and flooding throughout the Central United States has forced the cancellation of several Red Cross blood drives in the hardest hit areas. The Red Cross is asking eligible blood donors to donate blood in the days and weeks ahead. To make an appointment to donate blood, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE, or visit www.givelife.org.

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management is coordinating recovery efforts by state and local agencies in Chapman and Manhattan, and other impacted communities; and we will be working with the affected communities until the job is complete.

We have weathered this storm and we will surely face more. We will remain safe by being prepared; and we will be prepared by working together.

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