

Walworth County Disaster Declaration

DISASTER DECLARATION RESOLUTION # WC- 2022-16

WHEREAS, Walworth County, South Dakota suffered a severe winter storm caused by ice, snow, high winds and blizzard conditions December 12th-17th, 2022, a second severe winter storm caused by snow, high winds and blizzard conditions December 21st-24th, 2022, and a third event of snow, high winds and blizzard conditions December 25th-26th, 2022.

WHEREAS, the December 12th-17th storm brought freezing rain, up to .1" of ice, 8+" of snow, 45+ mph winds and zero visibility, heavy drifting throughout the county roads causing them to be impassable of several days while county crews plowed the roads out. Walworth County Highway Department was unable to clear the entire County Highway System before the next weather system arrived, in part, due to equipment breakages and limited staff.

WHEREAS, the December 21st- 24th, 2022, storm brought additional snow, 50 mph winds and blizzard conditions back to Walworth County for 4 days. All roads drifted back closed and some were impassable for several days again. Walworth County had a difficult time clearing roads due to the nature of drifting and equipment breakdowns.

WHEREAS, the December 25th- 26th, 2022 system brought additional snow, 40+ mph winds and blizzard conditions back to Walworth County. Many roads drifted back closed, especially the areas that have snow ridges that need pushed back and some roads were not able to cleared yet from the previous storms.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Walworth County Commissioners do hereby declare a disaster for the population of the area impacted.

The Walworth County Commissioners respectfully request that any and all assistance which may be available from state and federal agencies be provided to all local governments to include Walworth County and to the local businesses and the general population as we work to overcome this disaster.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Walworth County Commissioners do hereby declare a disaster and respectfully request the Governor of the State of South Dakota to declare a disaster area and to request a Presidential Declaration of Disaster to ensure that the maximum amount of assistance is made available to local governments, businesses and residents affected.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2023

Jim Houck, Chairman
Walworth County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST _____
Auditor