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Lieutenant Governor Askins Witnesses Flood Damage Firsthand

OKLAHOMA CITY – Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins on Monday visited several areas devastated by floodwaters, in order to speak with residents and understand first-hand the scope of the damage.

“In trying times like this that we can truly use the word heroes. It doesn’t just apply to the firefighters who risked their lives in water rescues or to the Highway Patrol troopers we all saw lifting a couple to safety from rising floodwaters,” Askins said.

“It is the people who walked door-to-door ensuring neighbors were safe. It also describes the other drivers who stopped to make sure stranded motorists could get out safely. Heroes are the Red Cross workers who give up time with their families to make sure others are cared for.”

Traveling with Governor Brad Henry, Askins listened to personal accounts from emergency personnel and residents from Kingfisher, Blaine and Caddo counties.

“Sometimes we overuse the word hero. But when I had a chance to see the faces of these people I knew it was time to say it again. We have had to reconstruct and start over, clean up and build up many times in Oklahoma. We will do it once more.”

Askins encouraged all residents affected by the recent storm and flooding to contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585 for speech or hearing-impaired, with lines open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Applications for disaster assistance may also be made on-line at www.fema.gov.