# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**
**Representative Walt Blackman (R-7)**
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Rep. Blackman Calls for Swift State and Federal Response to Arizona Flooding

*Urges Governor's Office to expedite emergency assistance and Congressman Crane to help secure federal support*

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – State Representative Walt Blackman, Chairman of the House Government Committee, today urged the Governor's Office to expedite emergency assistance for Arizona communities affected by recent storms and flooding and seek federal disaster aid where warranted. He also called on Congressman Eli Crane to help coordinate federal support for affected communities in Arizona's 2nd Congressional District.

**"Families facing rising water need immediate help, clear information, and a reliable path to recovery,"** said Representative Blackman. **"I am urging the Governor's Office and Congressman Crane to work together with local and tribal leaders to protect lives, support first responders, and get resources to affected communities."**

Recent reports describe flooding, evacuations, rescues, and transportation disruptions in Prescott, Camp Verde, Lake Montezuma, Cornville, Cottonwood, Sedona, Flagstaff, Gisela, Tonto Basin, Queen Valley, Apache Junction, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, and Tucson. Highway disruptions have also been reported near Snowflake and Pinetop-Lakeside.

On tribal lands, evacuations have been reported in Cedar Creek, East Fork, and along River Road on White Mountain Apache lands, as well as the Lower Seven Mile Wash–Lower Peridot area on San Carlos Apache lands. Reports also describe flooded homes and washed-out roads on Navajo and Hopi lands. Representative Blackman stressed that damage assessments must include other affected communities as local, county, and tribal officials identify additional impacts.

**"Rural and tribal communities cannot be overlooked,"** Representative Blackman said. **"A washed-out road can cut a family off from medical care, groceries, and emergency services. We need direct coordination with people on the ground to identify unmet needs and get help where it belongs."**

Representative Blackman is urging the Governor's Office to:

- Issue or expand state emergency declarations as conditions warrant.
- Expedite damage assessments in coordination with FEMA, counties, municipalities, and tribal governments.
- Seek a presidential emergency or major disaster declaration when justified by documented conditions and unmet needs.
- Prioritize essential services, including rescue operations, emergency shelter, safe drinking water, medical access, debris removal, and restoration of roads and utilities.
- Pursue available recovery assistance for eligible households, public infrastructure, and affected businesses.
- Provide clear public guidance on reporting damage and accessing assistance.

Representative Blackman also called on Congressman Crane to coordinate with federal agencies, advocate for affected communities in Congressional District 2, and support an appropriate federal disaster declaration request from the Governor.

**“I urge Congressman Crane to work directly with FEMA and other federal agencies to help our communities secure timely emergency support and available recovery assistance,”** Representative Blackman said. **“Our residents need their state and federal representatives working together to protect lives, restore essential services, and help families recover.”**

Representative Blackman is also requesting a briefing from the Governor’s Office within 24 hours of receiving his request, including the status of state emergency actions, a designated coordination contact, and next steps toward federal assistance. His office stands ready to assist in coordinating with state, federal, local, and tribal officials.

Residents should follow evacuation instructions from local and tribal authorities, avoid flooded roads and washes, and call 911 for life-threatening emergencies.

*Representative Walt Blackman is a retired United States Army combat veteran who served for 21 years, including deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He represents Arizona’s Legislative District 7 and serves as Chairman of the House Government Committee. Follow him on X at @BlackmanForAZ.*

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