



News Release

Missouri Western State University • 4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507 • 816-271-5649

Contact: Kristy Hill

Phone: (816)-271-5649

Title: Public Relations/Marketing Director

Email: hillk@missouriwestern.edu

WESTERN CREW HELPS CLEAR ICE STORM DAMAGE

St. Joseph, Mo. —Jan. 22, 2007—“We stayed busy both days and could have stayed busy for several more. It looked like a war zone.” Those are the words of David Noah, one of three volunteers from the maintenance department at Missouri Western State University who spent last weekend cleaning up from a mid-January winter storm in Richland, a small community in southern Missouri.

Noah, Ron Hodge and Greg Monach loaded up a Western maintenance vehicle with university chain saws and tools and answered the statewide call for volunteers to the ice-damaged area as a result of storms in mid-January.

“You can’t imagine the devastation,” said Hodge. He said telephone and light poles were snapped in two, and downed trees and branches were everywhere. Tiny branches often had two inches of ice on them. The volunteers saw a brush pile in one resident’s yard that was taller than his house, and several homes were still without electricity.

Downed power lines were everywhere, so Noah kept busy making sure the wires were not live.

All three men said they would like to go again and help, and would encourage others to volunteer. “You know if you’re spending your time helping someone else, it’s worth your time,” said Noah. “It was a lot of work, but we had fun.”

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