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PRESS RELEASE

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PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – Local Law Enforcement Demonstrates Professionalism and Dedication in the Face of Ice Storm Devastation

Many have witnessed the countless emergency responders and volunteers that have been in the Monterey area since the Ice Storm hit on Saturday. What residents may not be aware of is the preparation and coordination of efforts that goes into being able to work seamlessly during such a disaster. Upon learning of the possibility of the severe ice/snow storm that was forecast for Putnam County, Sheriff Eddie Farris began preparing his personnel and resources for extended duty with an emphasis on locating and checking on residents as well as ensuring that deputies monitored and directed traffic through the 400-square miles of the County.

One of the key aspects of the preparation effort was to ensure that all Sheriff's Office personnel were able to respond for duty. According to Sheriff Farris, "It is important for us to help our personnel secure their residences and families so they can respond and aid the citizens without delay. As a result, we had several deputies who volunteered their personal equipment and off-duty time to help."

Sheriff Farris was in constant contact with various community, volunteer and emergency response leaders throughout the storm. Sheriff Farris initiated and directed his personnel to enact Mutual Aid agreements that allowed his personnel to work with and bring in other law enforcement resources to assist with the disaster.

Immediately, Police Chiefs from the Monterey and Cookeville Police Departments began sending resources to the area command for coordination. Monterey's personnel focused on the City of Monterey and Cookeville's Chief directed personnel to assist the Sheriff's deputies in the unincorporated areas - primarily Cumberland Cove. These personnel provided traffic control, tree clearing, delivery of food and water, and door-to-door house checks to locate and assess the welfare of residents in the impacted area.

The municipal Police Chiefs and Sheriff Eddie Farris had to remain cognizant of the fact that with the east end of Putnam County garnering the majority of the relief efforts it was important to provide similar services to those residents in other parts of the County. This coupled with continuing to perform law enforcement duties throughout the whole County was the primary reason personnel worked around the clock and had their days off cancelled. Sheriff Farris, who responded immediately to the areas hardest hit by the storm stated, "The professionalism of our personnel and their dedication to help the residents was something I'm really proud of as well as the commitment of all those who responded and provided services. I would also like to thank Chief Randy Evans in Cookeville and Chief Bill Randolph in Monterey and their personnel for providing us with assistance."

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