**News Release**

**Lea County Sheriff’s Office**

**Over the last week Lea County has received much severe weather causing power outages, snow packed/icy streets and very cold weather. We wanted to remind all Lea County residents and visitors to please try to remain home or in a location which is safe during these times. Being out on the highways and streets during these conditions could cause you and your family to be in an accident or become stranded putting you and others at a risk.**

**We at the Lea County Sheriff’s Office wanted to remind everyone to stay safe and warm during these times but if it’s absolutely necessary to get out; please be careful! As a result of the weather earlier this week, personnel from the Sheriff’s Office rescued well over 300 stranded motorists within Lea County. We have been very fortunate that so few have been seriously injured during the main storm, but when we are out with or responding to stranded motorists, it makes it very difficult to respond to emergency calls for service.**

**Sheriff Ackerman says, “we are seeing days after the roads were bladed the first time, many drivers driving too fast for conditions. This morning drivers are not aware of the frozen ice beneath the fresh snowfall from today. We have responded to two vehicle rollover accidents this morning, one with serious injuries. We caution all drivers on the roadways to drive cautiously”.**

**Sheriff Ackerman and the personnel at the Lea County Sheriff’s Office are dedicated to the citizens of Lea County, but want you to remember to be safe at all times, especially during the severe weather and freezing temperatures. We are asking you to consider staying in a safe location versus getting out and possibly becoming stranded or involved in an accident.**

**For most current road conditions, cautions and closure information, please refer to the Lea County Sheriff’s Office Facebook page at:**

**https://m.facebook.com/Lea.County.Sheriff.Office/**

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