

## PRESS RELEASE

### JULY 4 TORNADO EVENT: HALL COUNTY NEBRASKA

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NWS Hastings issued a Tornado Warning at approximately 0100 AM after debris was visible on radar. They initiated the Tornado Warning for a portion of Hall County based on that evidence. IPAWS/WEA alerts were received by residents at that time. Sirens were also activated in Hall County by the Grand Island Emergency Center. No injuries reported in Hall County.]

#### Damage Assessment

Four homes in Hall County suffered minor to moderate damages, and we have made contact with all four residents. Those homes are located east of South Locust and South of Husker Highway in Hall County, just southeast of the City of Grand Island. Damages include:

- Minor damage to roof trim of detached garage. Home is unaffected and habitable
- Window and siding damage, trees & fences, electrical service lost and then restored. Propane currently shut off. Home is habitable.
- Loss of an attached garage. Roof damage to living portion of the home in a few places, and a few broken windows. Power restored by 1030am. Home is habitable.
- Farmstead where home suffered only superficial damage to the electrical service connection. Power not yet restored to home, but on generator currently. Home is habitable. Several outbuildings destroyed (chicken coops, brooding house, etc.). Several others with moderate damage (holes in roof, etc.). Significant number of large trees (50-70) are down or must come down.
- Point of origin of visible damage is likely 40.86583548342534, -98.33453003995754 and the tornado proceeded northeast from that point.

#### Response:

- Hall County Sheriff flew a drone and found damages reaching from the point of origin running northeast through Gunbarrel Road.
- NWS Hastings has finished their preliminary damage assessment this morning and will provide details to our office, likely today.
- Grand Island Rural Fire Department and Hall County Sheriff responded late last night and into the early morning hours.
- Grand Island Utilities who delivers power to the homes on Schimmer and Husker Hwy and were in the process of assessing and repairing yet this morning. Southern Power was also notified by our 911 center. Only one home in Hall County is reportedly still without power at 11AM July 4.

This was a NO WARNING event for Hall County and nearly all warning messages were lagging in Hall County on this storm due to circumstances of the storm. It appears that the first 2-3 homes were struck prior to evidence being found of the tornado, but the fourth home did have prior notice and time to seek shelter.

The Emergency Management Department reminds residents that sirens are outdoor warning devices and not designed for indoor warning. All residents should use a variety of weather related devices include mobile apps, NOAA Alert Radios, and local media.

#### Avoiding Heat-Related Injuries

Work today in these areas will include debris management and securing homes from the weather. A reminder that today's weather forecast is for hot and humid conditions. When working outside, take frequent breaks, drink plenty of water, find shade or take shelter from the heat indoors. Watch for signs of heat related illnesses such as heavy sweating, painful muscle cramps, extreme weakness and/or fatigue, nausea and/or vomiting, dizziness and/or headache, fainting, pulse that is fast and weak.