



PRESS RELEASE

State Senator Wes Shoemyer – 18th District

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SEN. SHOEMYER OFFERS CONDOLENCES AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF SEVERE STORMS

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, today offered his condolences to the families of victims of Thursday’s severe storms in northeast Missouri. Authorities report as many as four tornadoes touched down in Adair County yesterday, killing two people who lived in a modular home and damaging dozens of buildings.

“I just want folks to know our thoughts and prayers are with them as they begin to recover from Thursday’s severe storms,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “Although we’ve been incredibly busy during this final week of the legislative session, I want to offer any support my office can provide to help folks get back on their feet.”

Authorities say six people were treated for minor injuries at the Northeast Regional Medical Center in Kirksville as a result of the storms. A woman in neighboring Sullivan County was killed when her mobile home was hit by the storms.

Ameren UE reports some hundreds of customers remain without power following the severe storms, mostly west and north of Kirksville. The Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives says the storms caused outages near Lancaster in Schuyler County and in Lewis County, both in the 18th Senate District.

City officials in Kirksville report two tornadoes were located near Novinger and were reported just before 6 p.m. last night. Another tornado was spotted in Kirksville at 6 p.m., and a fourth twister was reported in the Troy Mills area.

The tornado that touched down in Kirksville destroyed Jim Robertson’s Automobile Dealership and several houses in the Bobwhite development.

Adair County Sheriff Robert Hardwick told the Kirksville Daily Express that the damage is widespread in the county.

Sen. Shoemyer notes his Chief of Staff Ian Dunlap and Rep. Rebecca McClanahan, D-Kirksville, are traveling to the district this afternoon. Governor Jay Nixon is expected to arrive in Kirksville at 2 p.m. today to assess the situation.

“During these final two days of the legislative session, I intend to remain in Jefferson City to protect the interests of my constituents,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “Ian and Rebecca are headed to the area to review the damage and offer any assistance we can provide to the people impacted by these storms.”

Sen. Shoemyer met with Missouri Department of Public Safety Director John Britt this afternoon, who provided an update of the storm damage in northeast Missouri. Britt says the Department of Public Safety is sending damage assessment teams to the area, and similar teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency are expected to arrive after the initial assessment is made.

Britt told Sen. Shoemyer there is some question as to the number of tornadoes that struck the region Wednesday evening, though local officials believe as many as four separate tornadoes struck the area. The State Emergency management Agency reports a tornado touched down north of Edina in Knox with six homes damaged. No injuries were reported but some power lines are down. SEMA says more than 100 homes were damaged or destroyed in Adair County, and widespread power outages remain.

SEMA officials say the Missouri Department of Corrections is providing heavy equipment to assist power restoration crews with clearance of rights-of-way in heavily wooded areas. The Missouri Department of Conservation is providing assistance to local jurisdictions.

A number of volunteer organizations also are assisting in the recovery effort. The American Red Cross is providing food and shelter to storm victims; AmeriCorps volunteers are working with local jurisdictions on volunteer management and incident support challenges, and with mass care agencies in delivering food and water; the Convoy of Hope is providing bulk food and water to affected areas; Southern Baptists Chainsaw teams are assisting residents with debris clearance; and the United Way 211 service is up and running and taking calls. They have received more than 110 calls to date.

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