



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

Administrative Services Emergency Management

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PRESS RELEASE

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Two to Four Tornadoes Touch Down In Kenosha County

According to the National Weather Service (NWS) which had two Teams in Kenosha County today a total of four Tornadoes may have touched down in Kenosha County. Per Rusty Kapela of the National Weather Service, "We had record breaking warm air with a unique set up of a strong jet stream and wind sheer that caused the development of thunderstorms which had the make up to produce tornadoes and ultimately did just that."

According to the two teams from the NWS, the first Tornado started at **approximately** 4:02 - 4:03 p.m. in Walworth County NE of Pell Lake and moved over Hwy O and Hwy 50 in Kenosha County before ending in Klondike area of Paddock Lake (between PH & 41st Street--take 75 north to NN and go NW on 41st Street to small lake). The Tornado was 10-1/2 miles total length, ending at **approximately** 4:20 - 4:25 p.m. and was rated **EF-3** (winds of 138 – 167 mph). According to hearsay, there was possibly a second tornado 3/4 mile SE of the main tornado. The second Tornado that started in the City of Kenosha started at **approximately** 4:39 p.m. just east of 18th Street & 31st Avenue; moved E/NE and ended at **approximately** 4:43 p.m. and was rated **EF-1** (winds of 86 – 109 mph). According to an eyewitness there were **possibly** 2 tornadoes there.

Yesterday, right after the Tornado Touchdowns, County Executive Allan Kehl declared a Countywide Disaster Declaration for Kenosha County and today Governor James Doyle declared a Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency in Kenosha County.

A team of people from FEMA, WI Emergency Management and Kenosha County Emergency Management were out looking at damages. Currently damages are as follows:
Western Kenosha County (Randall, Salem, Wheatland)

- 20 Homes Destroyed
- 25 Homes with Moderate to Major damages
- 25 Homes with Minor to Moderate damages

Eastern Kenosha County (City of Kenosha, Town of Somers)

- 6 Buildings Destroyed
- 7 Buildings with Moderate to Major damages
- 21 Buildings with Minor to Moderate damages

“Kenosha County’s Outdoor Warning Sirens were sounded four times,” stated Ben Schliesman, Director, Kenosha County Emergency Management. “People that heard the sirens did what they were suppose to do and went into their basements and/or inner rooms of the lowest level of their homes. As a reminder Kenosha County’s sirens are Outdoor Warning Sirens meant to be heard outdoors. Every household, business and school should have an NOAA All Hazard Weather Radio so that they are constantly in-tune with changing weather conditions and/or non-weather emergencies.”

Per the Sheriff’s Dept., residents are allowed back in their homes if they feel it is safe enough to enter. Today the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross has been out serving food to home owners and first responders.

“All home owners should be contacting their insurance companies, we also ask residents to call Kenosha County Emergency Management at 262-605-7926 to report whether you have insurance or not and if any uninsured damages, said Schliesman. “Homeowners should check out repair contractors with the Chamber of Commerce or Better Business Bureau to make sure that they are legitimate contractors as scammers take advantage of residents in times like these”

Assistance and for those wanting to volunteer may contact the following numbers:

- To Volunteer, call Kenosha County Emergency Management’s Volunteer Hotline at 262-605-7924
- If you need Assistance you can contact Crisis Intervention at 262-657-7188 or 1-800-236-7188 or the American Red Cross at 262-554-9997.

For those wishing to donate, you may contact the Wheatland Town Hall at 262-537-4340 and/or Kenosha County Emergency Management at 262-605-7900.

The Kenosha County Division of Health will be providing free well water test kits to those individuals affected by the tornado and flooding that may follow. In addition, individuals assisting with relief efforts should be aware of the risks of tetanus due to exposure to sharp objects and make certain they have had a current tetanus vaccine. Tetanus vaccines are available for \$7.00. These services are available at the Kenosha County Division of Health locations:

- Kenosha County Division of Health, 8600 Sheridan Road, Suite 600, Kenosha
- Kenosha County Center, Hwy 50 and Hwy 45, Bristol
- For further information contact the Kenosha County Division of Health at (262)605-6700.