

Ks Begins Recovery from Massive Storm System

(AP)--The massive storm system that plowed through Kansas this weekend damaged businesses, uprooted trees, caused power outages and upended about 100 homes in a Wichita mobile home park. But no serious injuries or fatalities were reported, a feat one authority called "pretty much a miracle."

The National Weather Service said 97 tornadoes were reported in Kansas over the weekend. On average, 12 tornadoes are reported in the state for the whole month of April.

The storms hit the Kansas counties of Sedgwick and Rice especially hard. Preliminary damage estimates in Wichita could be as high as \$283 million.

Locally, in Marshall County power was lost to about 200 residences in Bremen and Herkimer.

Gov. Sam Brownback said in a statement Sunday that Kansas residents appeared to have taken the storm warnings seriously.

Brownback, who issued a declaration of disaster emergency early Sunday, said the state was fortunate to have escaped fatalities. He said residents responded to the storm warnings and took cover.