

One Dead, Several Injured, in NE Neb. Tornadoes

PILGER, Neb. (AP) - Authorities say a 5-year-old was killed in the northeast Nebraska tornado that destroyed more than half of the town of Pilger.

The Stanton County Sheriff's Office confirmed the death in a statement late Monday. Authorities say the child was among several people near the town's Main Street who suffered critical injuries when the tornado struck.

The tornado was one of two that touched down in Stanton County. Authorities say the first landed southwest of Stanton around 3:45 p.m. and leveled a farmhouse. Officials say the second tornado touched down shortly afterward southwest of Pilger before hitting the town. Several major buildings were destroyed, including the Fire Department.

The statement did not identify the child who was killed or specify a gender.

Several more people were injured in the tornadoes. A spokeswoman for Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk said Monday that the hospital was treating 16 patients. Some of those patients were later released, others went into surgery, and one was transferred to Omaha.

Providence Medical Center in nearby Wayne treated three tornado patients, including two who had lacerations. Providence Medical Center spokeswoman Sandy Bartling says two were released Monday evening and a third patient was in stable condition.

Associated Press