

Tornado Causes Damage in Several Counties

(KTNC)--A tornado that skipped and meandered its way through southeast Nebraska and northeast Kansas Tuesday night caused damage in several counties.

Richardson County Emergency Management Director Brian Dixon says the tornado started in Gage County north of Beatrice. It tracked through Pawnee County, north of Pawnee City towards DuBois, then scraped the southwest corner of Richardson County near the Boy Scout Camp south of Humboldt. From there, the storm trailed into Nemaha County Kansas and went east before turning back into Richardson County. It then abruptly turned south again into Brown County Kansas.

Dixon says there was no significant damage in Richardson County, mainly a few downed tree limbs.

Pawnee City took the brunt of the damage in Pawnee County, with several trees blown down and other property damage. The storm also knocked out power to the Lewiston and Burchard areas.

Pawnee County Emergency Management Director Clint Strayhorn says the storm packed winds of approximately 90 miles-per-hour.

The tornado wasn't on the ground the entire time. Dixon says it's not unusual for tornadoes to move around like that, from east-to-west and north-to-south. He says Tuesday night's storm was difficult to track, since it was at night and that's why they sounded the tornado sirens in Falls City even though the tornado didn't actually reach Falls City.

About 300 kids and adults were evacuated from the Boy Scout Camp south of Humboldt and spent Tuesday night at the HTRS High School gymnasium.

Strayhorn says the damage in this area is different from that in the Omaha area, where they saw large hail and torrential rainfall. The damage in southeast Nebraska and northeast Kansas was caused mainly by the wind.

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