

NEWS RELEASE: Friday, April 10, 2009

Minor storm damage reported in Greene County

The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management is reporting only minor damage in Greene County following the April 9 tornado outbreak.

The National Weather Service issued four Tornado Warnings including Greene County during the storm:

- 8:01 p.m., for the areas including Ash Grove and Walnut Grove
- 8:19 p.m., for the northern portion of the county
- 8:24 p.m., for the southeast corner of Greene County, including Rogersville
- 8:37 p.m., for the Interstate-44/U.S. 65 and Strafford areas

Minor structural damage has been reported in the Strafford area, including lost shingles and house siding, as well as downed power lines and tree branches. The Strafford Fire Department responded to the scene and did not request additional aid. No damage has been reported in other areas of Greene County. To report additional storm damage, call the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management at 417-869-6040.

The National Weather Services is reviewing damage today to determine the strength of the storm.

Ryan Nicholls, Director of Emergency Management, said some residents may be unaware of improvements to the county's siren system, which allow storm sirens to be activated in specific areas, rather than the entire county.

"The National Weather Service now issues Tornado Warnings by polygon, not by an entire county," said Nicholls. "We activated the sirens last night only in the areas where we had Tornado Warnings."

Nicholls added that the best household protection against being caught unaware of Tornado Warnings is a weather alert radio, available for about \$30 through the Greater Ozarks Chapter of the American Red Cross, at 417-832-9500.

For more information, contact Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management, at 417-869-6040, or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-379-5713.

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