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IU News Room

Friday, May 30, 2008

Last modified: Friday, May 30, 2008

IU SPEA Executive Education Program to sponsor homeland security seminar

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2008

INDIANAPOLIS -- What does it take to get city services up and running following a devastating tornado? How do you protect lives and property during high-profile events such as a Super Bowl or major motorsports race? How do you protect important businesses from sabotage? Such questions and concerns are the focus of an upcoming homeland security emergency management seminar.

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) will host the first of six major national conferences on homeland security and emergency management from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, at the University Place Conference Center, located at 850 W. Michigan St. on the IUPUI campus.

Titled "Protecting America's Heartland from Catastrophic Events," this initial conference will feature national experts and key responders who will discuss major disasters that threaten America's heartland while presenting best practices as well as new ideas for addressing these threats.

Major General R. Martin Umbarger, the adjutant general of the state of Indiana, will present the keynote address during the opening session of the conference, which is sponsored by the Executive Education Program in the School of Public and Environment Affairs at IUPUI.

Panel topics include "Continuity of Operations During Major Disasters," "Industrial Security During Troubled Times" and "Special Events Security for High Visibility Events."

Presenters include federal and city emergency managers from Minneapolis, Minn., Nashville, Tenn., and Greensburg, Kan. -- sites of recent major tornadoes or interstate bridge collapses; the security directors of Eli Lilly Corp., United Steel Corp. and Cummins Inc.; and security managers from the Lucas Oil Stadium, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Conseco Fieldhouse.

Federal, state and city employees; public safety, health and security educators, as well as emergency management and homeland security personnel are invited to participate in this conference.

Registration, \$25, includes a catered lunch and conference materials. For additional information, go to <http://exceedspea.iu.edu/register/index.asp>.

[*Return to IDHS*](#)

Testing the warning system

Times-Mail Editorial Board

May 28, 2008

Hoosiers in general — and Lawrence County residents, in particular — know full well the dangers posed by tornados, thunderstorms and floods. So we are pleased that Indiana's emergency management officials are assessing the state's tornado sirens to make sure they're adequate for alerting residents about dangerous weather.

Under a law that takes effect this year, each of Indiana's 92 counties must submit a report on siren coverage to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. According to the Associated Press, the report would include all existing and planned sirens in a county, all areas not within range of a siren and recommendations for what counties need by way of more sirens. The Department of Homeland Security must adopt rules before 2010 to establish minimum technical standards for the sirens and — if requested by counties — must assist the counties in developing their siren coverage plan.

Despite technological advances, from the Internet to weather radios, sirens remain a necessary first line of defense. That's because siren wails aren't meant to penetrate walls and warn people who are indoors. They're meant to alert people who are outside. And that means they remain a critical part of our emergency warning system.

"They're not the end-all answer, but I personally believe they're a valuable piece of the overall system," Bernie Beier, director of the Fort Wayne-AlLEN County Department of Homeland Security, said in an AP report.

Those pieces, however, are part of a patchwork quilt. The weekly siren test has become a familiar wail at noon each Friday in Bedford. But in other places of Lawrence County, sirens simply cannot be heard. Throughout the state, sirens are maintained by counties, cities, towns, neighborhoods — even businesses. So collecting data about them, and measuring their effectiveness, is no easy task.

That leaves room for equipment failure and human error. And, as with all such programs, funding is often an issue.

"It's an aging system," Beier told the AP. "It would take several million to do what should be done."

But collecting information is a good start

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The BRAZIL TIMES

Agency preps for hazards

Sunday, June 1, 2008

By IVY JACKSON, Times Staff Reporter

Hazardous materials are everywhere, which makes having a plan of action in case of an emergency crucial.

Because an unknown number of semi trucks and tanker trucks carrying various types of potentially hazardous chemicals and materials use Interstate-70 to cross the midsection of Clay County, the Clay County Local Emergency Planning Commission is preparing for the worst.

On May 14, an accident at the eastbound 23-mile marker on I-70 closed the road to traffic while HAZMAT technicians cleared the area of residue from a spill of organic peroxide and leaking diesel fuel. Although no one was injured during the incident, traffic was backed up for hours while crews cleared the area of debris.

Clay County Emergency Management Director and LEPC Chairman Bryan Husband recently told The Brazil Times the accident is a reminder that emergency response personnel needs to be prepared for when the situation could be much worse.

"It would really surprise you to know what type of materials are transported on I-70, through our county," He said. "When an accident occurs involving a semi, it can be carrying anything on the interstate, from battery acid to fuel oil to baby food. The semi literally could be carrying anything."

Husband said the interstate is not the only area of concern within the county.

Many local businesses and farms are also places that store various potentially hazardous materials and chemicals. The LEPC also plans for emergencies in these types of settings.

"It is a matter of being aware and prepared so that we can respond quickly," he said. "It's all about saving lives."

The Clay County LEPC receives yearly funding from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), but has to schedule at least two meetings every six months, with a quorum of at least seven people in attendance, while also planning and implementing a tabletop version of an emergency preparedness exercise.

"The upcoming exercise is a mock-incident at I-70 and State Road 59 and involves a semi-tanker truck of ethanol," Husband said. "With the new ethanol plant in Cloverdale we felt this will be an excellent opportunity to plan for this possible event. In the event of an accident like this we

would require response from many area responders along with IDHS, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and, most importantly, our own local emergency responders that cover that area."

For more information about the LEPC, contact Husband at the Clay County Justice Center at 446-2535, Ext. 156.

Readers are encouraged to comment on this article at www.thebraziltimes.com.

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Residents gather belongings from apartments damaged by storm

By DEANNA MARTIN | Associated Press Writer
9:26 PM CDT, June 2, 2008

INDIANAPOLIS - Ronald Harper and LaDonna Hopkins weren't sure what they'd find when they unlocked the door to their tornado-damaged apartment Monday, but the fact that they still had a locking door put them in a better situation than some of their neighbors.

"It just seems so unreal," Harper said as he walked over broken glass, roofing tiles and other debris to get to his first-floor Falcon Point apartment. Once inside, he walked past water-damaged ceilings and wet carpeting to gather needed clothing for the couple's three children, ages 9, 4 and 6 months.

Indianapolis firefighters and social workers escorted dozens of people into the apartments Monday to collect items such as medicine, car keys and important documents. Residents waited in a school parking lot for the escorts after registering with emergency officials and being outfitted with hardhats, gloves and goggles.

A tornado blew the roof off some Falcon Point apartment buildings and sheared the brick off of others. Windows were broken and some doors were damaged or missing. The entire complex was littered with debris.

Marion County emergency officials estimate \$29 million in damage from the severe storms that hit Indianapolis late Friday. Eighteen people were treated for minor injuries after the storm, which damaged more than 500 homes and other buildings.

Officials are urging residents across the state to report damage by contacting their local emergency management agency. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security hopes to compile the losses to see if the state should seek federal assistance.

Crews spent the weekend repairing power lines and traffic lights and removing storm debris from roadways, but trees are still down and many roofs in the area are covered with blue tarps. Yellow police tape blocks off some of the worst-hit buildings, including the Falcon Point apartments.

Firefighter Chris Mescall said it's understandably difficult for people to enter the apartments and determine what they need.

One woman was concerned about her pet fish, he said. She couldn't take them with her Monday, so she fed them as much as she could before leaving. Another woman wanted to take a large box of photographs, but it was too big so she had to leave it.

"It's hard for them," Mescall said. "Everybody wants to take everything, but they can't so they've got to make hard decisions on what they need."

Harper and Hopkins seemed focused on the necessities Monday. They left behind framed photos, the kids' artwork on the refrigerator and the PlayStation. Harper grabbed his high school diploma, and

Hopkins took her Social Security card. One of the only extras the couple could fit in their crammed bags was a teddy bear.

Hopkins, who was at work when the storm hit, said their children were in the apartment with a relative at the time of the storm and went to the school across the street for safety.

"This is something they'll never forget," she said. "Every time it rains, they'll be scared."

Officials planned to take more residents through the apartments Tuesday, when the forecast called for more thunderstorms.

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Carroll County Comet

Burlington logs to get un-jammed

Commissioners work with INDOT to correct problem

By Debbie Lowe Staff writer



Log jam on Wildcat Creek at Burlington

A logjam on Wildcat Creek has caused problems for the town of Burlington for weeks. It would be a risky proposition for any local entity to attempt to dislodge two large sycamore trees and accumulated debris in order to clear the waterway. However, the Indiana Department of Transportation has the right tools for the job. And it is willing to help when a formal request is made.

Carroll County Emergency Management Agency Director Dave McDowell said he worked with State Senator Brandt Hershman to formulate a plan to rid the area of the jam. The agreement calls for INDOT to clear the trees and brush from the water to the banks. The county highway department would be responsible to remove the debris from the creek banks.

McDowell said the jam is approximately 100 yards wide and 50 yards long and adjacent to the town's wastewater treatment plan. He said a significant flood would cause sewage problems in the area.

Commissioners voted to send a formal request for INDOT assistance to eliminate the log jam this summer.

Veteran's administrator

Outgoing Carroll County Veterans Service Officer Bob Morrow was presented a plaque and a county resolution was adopted for his 59 years of service to the county and its veterans.

The resolution was read aloud by commissioners' president Loren Hylton citing Morrow's many years of service and his provision of "utmost dignity" to his clients. Hylton said a brick in Morrow's honor would be purchased and placed in the memorial walk located at the courthouse.

After the brief ceremony, Morrow gave the key to his office to auditor Beth Myers

Commissioners will immediately advertise the position by posting the job in the courthouse. A published advertisement will appear in the June 11 issue of the *Comet*.

Highway department

Highway superintendent Ron Francis reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) decided to reimburse the county

for 75 percent of the labor costs associated with recent flood debris removal. He said the estimated labor cost was \$40,000.

Additionally, the county was encouraged by FEMA to make two additional removal efforts. He said the debris was to be personal and not contractor rubbish and must be placed in the county rightof way along roadsides.

Francis informed commissioners the highway department would expend the 2008 appropriation for fuel in the next two months. He said when he announced this to the county council, he was motivated by the members to utilize cost-saving measures before requesting an additional or transfer appropriation to pay for fuel for the remainder of 2008.

Francis developed a list of procedures to which highway department employees will be expected to strictly adhere. The list included not leaving truck engines idling for more than three minutes, no personal use of county vehicles for errands, lunch times flexed to coincide with traveling to and from jobs, adherence to speed limits and monitoring of load weights on trucks. He explained when trucks are over loaded, they consume more fuel to operate.

Francis said he suspended the 10-hour workday schedule as of Monday. He said the department was open five days each week for 10 hours each day by splitting workers' shifts. He said he examined the situation and discovered it was not the cost-saving measure he anticipated it would be when it was implemented.

The replacement deck on the Bridge #129 project is wider than the road leading up to the bridge. The road must be re-designed to match the approach to the bridge. Francis said the road work was to be accomplished after the deck was installed and workers could understand exactly how the road had to be correctly positioned to be in line with the bridge.

Park board

Park board president Bob Burton was granted permission, by consensus, to develop a camping plan for French Post Park. Burton said the camping would be primitive and for limited amount of days. All campers would be required to register with the park board in advance of camping.

"I think it's a great idea because it's a beautiful area," Hylton said.

The board will present a formal proposal at the June 16 evening commissioners' meeting.

It was decided the wood from cut trees and debris by the highway department could be located at Deer Creek Park for campers.

Other business

Auditor Myers was directed by commissioners' attorney Barry Emerson to investigate with the Indiana State Board of Accounts about how donation funds for specific departments should be managed by her office. He suggested it might be appropriate for the council to appropriate the funds rather than department heads being allowed to spend the money independently of council approval.

Commissioners approved the proposed fee schedule for Carroll County Area Plan Commission building permits, effective July 1.

Carroll County Historical Society and Museum will have a sign on the courthouse lawn and use the courthouse June 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the Delphi Transportation Festival.

Delphi Lions will use the courthouse restrooms July 5 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. during the Independence Day Parade.

Carroll County Family Clinic Board will use the courthouse lounge July 15.

The next meeting will be June 16 at 6 p.m.

Drainage Board

After learning that Carroll County Surveyor Wayne Chapman was not going to attend the monthly meeting, drainage board members George Mears, Hylton and Bill Brown discussed a missed meeting with the Cass County Drainage Board May 7. Cass County changed the date of the scheduled meeting to May 5 and no Carroll County representative was able to attend. A new meeting date will be arranged by drainage board secretary Kim Cripe.

The next drainage board meeting will be July 7 at 8:30 a.m.

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Storms, Tornadoes Hit South-Central Indiana Overnight

[YouNewsTV™](#)

Story Published: Jun 4, 2008 at 6:04 AM EDT

Story Updated: Jun 4, 2008 at 6:04 AM EDT

By Peter Ambrose

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - The Rush County Sheriff's Department says six people were injured when a possible tornado hit the village of Moscow in the southern part of the county.

The extent of their injuries was unknown.

The storm destroyed a covered bridge and destroyed or damaged several homes. Tornado watches and flood watches and warnings remain in effect in central Indiana this morning after another night of severe storms that spawned tornadoes and caused widespread damage.

Another tornado was reported near Princes Lake north of Columbus and apparently then moved east to Edinburgh. Damage also was reported in nearby Camp Atterbury.

Earlier yesterday, the weather service said a small tornado touched down near Waverly, where television reports showed several trees down and buildings damaged.

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Last updated: June 4, 2008 10:53 a.m.

Tornadoes slam central Indiana

Associated Press

MOSCOW – Tornadoes tore through central Indiana, destroying numerous homes, damaging buildings at a military training base and critically injuring at least one person, authorities said.

The wave of thunderstorms continued moving across the state's midsection Wednesday and caused widespread flash flooding as 5 inches of rain was reported overnight in some areas.

A tornado hit the small community of Moscow in Rush County, reducing numerous homes to rubble and injuring at least eight people, one critically, said Mike Ooley, the county's emergency management director.

Jolene Icenogle, who lives just outside of Moscow, said the roads around the town were strewn with downed power lines, fallen limbs and other storm debris when she was driving home from work late Tuesday.

"I was just lucky my home wasn't hit," she said. "There's insulation in our yard from somewhere. We don't know where but it's not ours. There's a lot of damage to houses."

The storm also destroyed a 19th century covered bridge that leads into the community 35 miles southeast of Indianapolis, along with tearing the top floor and roof from an old brick schoolhouse.

Ooley said the storm tore apart the community of about 80 residents, with many homes destroyed and numerous trees and utility lines knocked down.

"These homes were leveled down to their foundations," Ooley said.

Flooding and storm debris damaged crops and left cattle and horses missing.

The overnight storms also damaged 40 buildings, including the post chapel, at the Indiana National Guard's Camp Atterbury near Edinburgh, Lt. Col. Deedra Thombleson said.

A trailer was picked up by the storm and landed on the roof of a public works building, she said. Two soldiers were hurt as they were driving back to the base to seek shelter when their car struck a gate. One of the soldiers was taken to a hospital and the other returned to the base, she said.

More than 2,000 troops are at the camp, including a Marine unit training for deployment to Iraq and the tornado skipped over buildings where the troops were sleeping, Guard Capt. Greg Lundeberg said.

The storm also damaged several homes near the Shelby County town of Waldron, which is about midway between Edinburgh and Moscow.

Waldron resident Tony Derby said his girlfriend was just about to leave for work late Tuesday when they rushed into his basement with her child to escape the storm.

"It started like a normal storm and then the wind picked up, the skies blackened and I kind of stuck my head out and I heard a big roar back behind the hill behind my house," he said.

When they emerged, he found that a tree limb had gone through his roof and into his kitchen, his front porch was heavily damaged and his Ford Explorer was crushed by a fallen tree.

The latest wave of storms included two tornadoes Tuesday afternoon that hit rural areas in Morgan County and Lawrence County south of Indianapolis. The new storms followed a Friday night thunderstorm that included a tornado that heavily damaged an Indianapolis apartment complex and caused other damage and scattered flooding in much the same area.

The National Weather Service had flood warnings in effect Wednesday morning for most of central Indiana.

The weather service confirmed that tornadoes hit the Moscow and Edinburgh areas based on eyewitness reports and a crew will head out Wednesday to investigate the storm damage, meteorologist Dave Tucek said.

About 30 people voluntarily evacuated their homes in the western Indiana city of Clinton because of flash flooding along Feather Creek, while others chose not to leave, said Ray Colombo, Vermillion County's emergency management director.

Flash flooding closed many roads, both in rural areas and in cities in the swath from Terre Haute through Indianapolis to Richmond that saw the heaviest rainfall.

Firefighters in Randolph County, along the Indiana-Ohio state line, had been out since 4 a.m. Wednesday rescuing people from high water, Sheriff Jay Harris said. More than 5 inches of rain fell overnight, leaving U.S. 27 under at least 18 inches of water north of Lynn and most roads in the county's southern half closed except for emergency vehicles

"We've had to pluck probably 10 to ... 20 people out of vehicles, out of their houses," Harris said. "We've had to rescue some livestock this morning."

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High water in city as severe storms rip through state Spy Run Creek has minor flooding; power outages reported.

By Charles Wilson
of The Associated Press

Powerful thunderstorms laced with strong lightning pummeled Indiana, lashing several counties with torrential rains and damaging winds that ripped the roof off an apartment complex in Indianapolis, sending residents to a school for shelter. The storm left thousands of Fort Wayne residents without power and caused minor flooding of Spy Run Creek.

In Fort Wayne, rain poured overnight, leading to some low-level flooding of the Spy Run Creek along Eastbrook and Westbrook drives. Residents of the 2200 block of Westbrook north of State Boulevard woke up to a familiar sight this morning: standing water in the street.

Across State, at least four dump trucks rumbled on Eastbrook Drive around 8 a.m. as dirt was poured into them. It's likely the beginning of the city's flood-control plan there, said city spokeswoman Rebecca Karcher. The city planned to close Eastbrook between State and Clinton Street from Monday through Friday to remove clay placed along Eastbrook during February flooding. The city has bought homes there that were frequently hit by flooding and plans to build a small park and rain gardens. Workers will lower the ground to hold water in flooding.

At 5:31 a.m. today, the National Weather Service reported that Fort Wayne International Airport had received 2.28 inches of rain in the last 24 hours.

The storm caused 6,000-8,000 Indiana Michigan Power customers to lose power in about four to five large outages, said spokesman Jim Riggle. Power was restored around midnight, he said.

In Indianapolis, rescue workers combed through the apartment building on the city's east side early today looking for residents who might be trapped. Television reports showed injured residents being helped onto stretchers.

Indianapolis television station WISH-TV reported that one floor was dumped on top of another at the complex.

Winds estimated at 70 to 80 mph downed trees and damaged homes in Andrews in Huntington County, and a tree was blown into a house in Ingalls, about 20 miles northeast of Indianapolis. A roof was blown off a building in Wabash, where a funnel cloud also was sighted.

The National Weather Service said weather spotters reported two tornadoes northeast of Lafayette about 7:30 p.m.

Funnel clouds also were reported in Vermillion County and near Marion.

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May 31, 2008

Reports: Storms hit apartments

Apartment complex on Northeastside hit

By Kevin O'Neal
kevin.oneal@indystar.com

Firefighters and emergency crews rushed to the Northeastside late Friday after storms hit a residential area and reportedly dropped a tornado into a group of apartment buildings.

Several buildings were damaged, and firefighters were looking to see whether anyone was trapped, amid reports that structures may have collapsed.

Roofs were blown off some buildings, and WISH (Channel 8) reported that one floor had collapsed on top of another in one apartment complex. Rescue crews were on the scene about midnight, and television reports showed injured residents being helped onto stretchers.

Authorities also were helping find shelter for residents forced from their homes by the storm. The roof at one of the shelters, John Marshall Middle School, partially collapsed, and authorities were working to transport about 300 people to other facilities, Lt. Jeff Duhamell of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department told WTHR (Channel 13).

He said two people had suffered minor injuries and up to 11 homes had been destroyed. There were no immediate reports of deaths.

The damage occurred after storms blew across western Indiana, causing flooding, toppling trees and leaving other damage in their wake. As the storms moved to the east, Indianapolis came under a severe thunderstorm warning about 10 p.m., and reports of damage followed winds that measured 60 to 70 mph.

At 10:30 p.m., police reported that winds were so strong that it felt as if a tornado had touched down on the Northeastside around 42nd Street and Post and Mitthoefer roads. One officer said it felt as if his patrol car had been picked up by the storm.

There also was a report that an apartment building was damaged in the Falcon Point apartments near 38th Street and Mitthoefer.

After finding the damage, firefighters began searching through apartment complexes, concentrating on an area near Marietta Drive near 38th and Mitthoefer, where an apartment building reportedly collapsed.

Firefighters also were sent to a building reportedly damaged near 10th Street and Post Road.

Downed power lines, many said to still be live, were hampering firefighters as they began their searches. Emergency workers also were hindered by trouble with their radio systems that may have been caused by the storm.

Reports of trees and power lines damaged were common on the Northside and the area north of I-465. Several streets in the Broad Ripple area were flooded.

The National Weather Service first received reports of severe storms early Friday evening. About 6:30 p.m., there were reports of a funnel cloud near Wabash in north-central Indiana, and of winds as strong as 80 mph that felled trees near Huntington, according to the weather service.

An hour later, flash floods were said to be covering roads near the Tippecanoe County-White County line, and funnel clouds were reported in Carroll County between Lafayette and Kokomo. One of those funnel clouds was reported east of Russiaville, a small Howard County town that was hit during the Palm Sunday tornado outbreak in 1965.

Another wave of bad weather swept into west-central Indiana just before 9 p.m. Friday, with a report of a tornado in Parke County and a flash flood in Montgomery County.

When weather service radar picked up a severe thunderstorm 14 miles southeast of Crawfordsville, a tornado warning was issued at 9:24 p.m. for portions of Montgomery, Putnam and Hendricks counties.

Trees also were reported down in Hendricks and Hancock counties.

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June 3, 2008

Tornado and flood damage reports needed

Submitted by John Erickson

Hoosiers who sustained damage caused by the severe weather and flooding in Central Indiana last week are urged to call their local Emergency Management Agency (EMA). The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is working with the local EMA's to quantify losses from the damaged areas and determine if federal assistance should be requested. Losses can include structural damage to homes and loss of personal property.

Callers will be asked to provide their name, address, phone number, damage to property and type of damage the property sustained. For a complete list of EMA's, visit the IDHS website at:

<http://www.in.gov/dhs/3621.htm>

[*Return to Severe Weather*](#)

June 4, 2008

New storms rake Central Indiana

Tornadoes hit Rush, Johnson counties

*By Kevin O'Neal and Heather Gillers
kevin.oneal@indystar.com*

As residents of the Falcon Point apartments sift through the remains of their homes today and representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency arrive to examine the damage from last week's storm, Hoosiers in other parts of the state are likely waking up to new weather carnage.

A succession of storms marched through the state late Tuesday, spawning at least three tornadoes.

The National Weather Service tracked two tornadoes on the ground south of Indianapolis that triggered significant damage reports Tuesday night.

One was initially reported near St. Paul on the Rush-Decatur line, where damage to utility poles was reported and wires were torn down.

Weather service meteorologist Joseph Nield said the same tornado apparently hit the village of Moscow in southern Rush County, where injuries were reported and some people were said to be missing.

Sheriff's deputies were going door to door in the Moscow area to check on residents, said Lt. Ceilia Nigh, a department dispatcher.

Another tornado was reported near Prince's Lakes, north of Columbus. It apparently moved east to Edinburgh, meteorologist Logan Johnson said. A Johnson County sheriff's dispatcher said several tornado touchdowns were reported in the Edinburgh area. Damage also was reported at nearby Camp Atterbury.

Earlier in the day, the weather service said a small tornado touched down near Waverly. Television reports showed several trees down and buildings damaged.

Scattered damage was reported throughout Central Indiana, and at one point more than 4,600 people were without electricity. Power had been restored to about half of them by 11 p.m., Duke Energy reported on its Web site. Most of the outages were in Shelby County and in Wayne County, in eastern Indiana.

Much of Central Indiana was covered by a tornado watch issued by the weather service late Tuesday that was to last until 3 a.m. today. Hail, straight-line winds and heavy rainfall also posed threats, forecasters said.

WTHR (Channel 13), The Indianapolis Star's news-gathering partner, reported that a gasoline pump was knocked over at a station in Edinburgh. Trees were downed, blocking some roads, and police were escorting some residents to ensure their safety, WTHR reported.

The station reported widespread property damage but no known injuries.

Thunderstorms also were forecast to continue today, and severe weather was possible.

In Indianapolis on Tuesday, many people still had their hands full coping with the damage from high winds and a tornado that sliced through the Far Eastside late Friday.

People who live in the storm-smashed apartments near 38th Street and Mitthoefer Road began returning to their residences Tuesday to recover belongings.

Their efforts were interrupted when more rain fell, because of concerns about allowing people into apartments that might not be stable.

Weather permitting, the procedure will continue today, said Randy Collins, incident commander for Marion County's Emergency Management Agency.

Falcon Point residents will need to register for apartment access in the parking lot of Marshall Middle School beginning at 9:30 a.m., Collins said.

Residents should bring proof that they live in the complex and should wear sturdy shoes to protect against the broken glass, nails and tree limbs. They will be given no more than 30 minutes inside. All residents will be escorted by Indianapolis firefighters and police if necessary, Collins said.

Out of the 218 apartments in Falcon Point, residents had been escorted to 110 through Tuesday.

Still to be determined is the number of units at Falcon Point and other residential areas that will be repaired or demolished. That could depend on decisions by FEMA and federal authorities as they examine the damage.

By late Tuesday, about 2,500 customers of Indianapolis Power & Light Co. remained without electricity, said company spokesman Matthew McCardle, down from about 70,000 who lost service during the storm. All of those customers were expected to have power by today, he said.

Among those still coping with no electricity was Dixie Hurley, 53, who on Tuesday evening was trying to cool off on her front porch on Nogales Street as crews worked to repair power lines nearby.

"A couple of days I can deal with, but it's been too long now," she said. "I'm just sick of it, totally sick of it."

Hurley and her husband, Terry, also 53, have been without air conditioning or a hot shower since the storm hit Friday. By the time the Hurleys borrowed a generator Saturday afternoon, all the food in their refrigerator and freezer had spoiled. With no way to power the washer and dryer, laundry has been piling up.

The couple have occasionally used the generator to watch television, but Dixie Hurley's computer has been dark since Friday night.

"I'm lost without my Internet," she said. "Everybody said, 'I can tell you're still out of power. I ain't got no e-mails.' "

On Tuesday, Indiana homeland security officials surveyed the area in preparation for FEMA's arrival today, said John Bartholomew, spokesman for the Department of Metropolitan Development.

"They want to make sure every bit of damage is documented," he said.

Metropolitan Development inspectors already have estimated the storm caused \$29 million in damage in Marion County.

The FEMA inspection likely will be followed by Gov. Mitch Daniels' office making a request for assistance to federal officials.

Call Star reporter Kevin O'Neal at (317) 444-2760.

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June 4, 2008

Flash floods slow Indy commute

By Tom Spalding
tom.spalding@indystar.com

11:07 AM -- High water trouble in Hamilton Co.

High water has rendered the intersection of 106th Street and Spring Mill Road in Fishers impassable and several other intersection are deluged with water, according the Hamilton County sheriff's office.

A dispatcher said seven sections of road had high water warnings posted, mostly in unincorporated areas of the county. They are: 169th in Cyntheanne Road; 146th and Prairie Baptist Road; 106th and Olio Road; 106th and Hague Road in Fishers; 166th and Boden Road; 10th and Blackthorn Court; Cumberland Road between 106th and 116th Streets, Fishers.

There were no reports of lightning strikes or fallen trees, the dispatcher said.

High water is causing flooding near two neighborhoods in Carmel this morning, and the storm has knocked down power lines at 96th Street and Towne Road.

City crews are awaiting Indianapolis Power & Light workers to remove the power lines, said city spokeswoman Nancy Heck. She couldn't confirm whether the intersection was completely closed or temporarily blocked.

High water closed Randall Road between 96th Street and Power Drive, Heck said. Randall is west of Gray Road and near the HH Gregg store on 96th. Residents in Briar Lane Estates and Williamson Run may need to detour to alternative routes from those neighborhoods.

Sections of Jordan Road, on the northwest corner of 106th Street and Keystone Avenue, are also closed due to high water, Heck said.

No tornado warnings were issued for the county but flash flood warnings were issued today.

10:38 AM -- Clogged street drains caused flooding.

About 20 city Department of Public Works crews were mobilized this morning to clear clogged storm drains that caused flooding on major streets this morning, an agency spokesman said.

The city is monitoring the flood-prone Frog Hollow and Ravenswood neighborhoods as well as other communities along the White River but there have been no reports of flooding, DPW spokesman Steve Hardiman said this morning.

Hardiman warned drivers to avoid flooded roadways. Crews helped push several vehicles out of high water this morning, he said.

"We really want to encourage residents to please respect those high water signs," Hardiman said.

-- Vic Ryckaert

9:49 AM -- Four rescued from flooded cars in Hendricks

Overnight storms made the commute for some Brownsburg residents a little treacherous this morning.

The Brownsburg Fire Territory had rescued four commuters from their cars by 8:45 a.m.

Hendricks County dispatch confirmed that while some flooding is occurring throughout the county, Brownsburg was hit hardest.

Two people were caught in high water on County Road 1000 North near Ind. 267. Two other people had to be rescued after being trapped in their cars on County Road 700 North between County Roads 900 and 1000 East, said Ryan Miller, Brownsburg Fire Territory public information officer.

“One of the individuals on 1000 North said she felt her vehicle rocking at one point like the water was about to take it off the ground,” he said. “Those are the most dangerous situations because if a car begins to float it doesn’t take much to turn over.”

No one was injured during the rescues, Miller said.

A bridge in White Lick Creek Estates north of town prone to flooding in the past also was washed out this morning. As a result, residents in the back of the subdivision have no way out. Crews have spent much of the morning clearing debris collecting at the bridge hoping the water will begin to recede.

-- Josh Duke

Update

Fighters and police responded to several calls in Marion County of motorists trapped in water-bound vehicles.

Police also called for high water signs at several locations to warn motorists of water-covered roads.

There have been no reports of injuries due to flooded roads.

Police reported about 7:15 a.m. that water was receding in some places as the rain slowed or stopped.

After 2-4 inches of rain fell overnight and this morning, the National Weather Service issued a flash flooding warning for Marion County and much of Central Indiana.

Earlier

Marion County may have dodged a tornado from new storms Tuesday night, but residents are bearing the brunt of heavy rainfall today.

Commuters can expect high water at numerous intersections. The National Weather Service posted a flash flood warning through 7 a.m., and motorists have found travel slow going.

At 6 a.m., the Weather Service said more than two inches of rain fell in a 90-minute period, producing standing water in urban areas like Williams Creek, North Crows Nest, Meridian Hills and Castleton.

Along Kessler Boulevard North Drive near the West 38th Street-Interstate 65 interchange, a foot of water made the road impossible to see.

Most flood deaths occur in automobiles, the Weather Service says. Never drive your vehicle into areas of high water as one foot of flowing water is enough to sweep a car off a road.

A warm front is to blame for the moisture maker. The forecast today is for showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 8 a.m. High is near 84 with the Southwest winds between 11 and 14 mph.

Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch are possible.

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June 4, 2008

Round 2: More tornadoes hit central Ind.

By Bill McCleery
bill.mccleery@indystar.com

Update: Henry County woman dies; more weather on the way

At least one person died and nine were taken to hospitals after a second round of tornado-packing storms smashed through central Indiana in less than a week.

The state declared disaster areas in three counties, even as the recovery continued in Indianapolis from a tornado that struck the Eastside last Friday.

In the first reported fatality of the storms, a Henry County woman died after driving her vehicle into rushing flood waters this morning. The victim's name was not released pending notification of relatives, said State Police Sgt. John Bowling.

The woman left her home about 7 a.m., and police found her vehicle north of New Castle near Indiana 103. Several other vehicles were in the water there, but their occupants were not hurt. Bowling said.

Elsewhere, the state Department of Homeland Security said eight Rush County residents and one Greene County person were taken to hospitals.

More thunderstorms and a slight risk of severe weather remained in the forecast for today, even as the cleanup began from twisters that struck Camp Atterbury in Johnson County and the Rush County community of Moscow.

The Moscow tornado flattened homes and injured at least five people - including one woman who was in critical condition, said Bowling of the state police.

The storm also destroyed a 19th century covered bridge that leads into the community about 35 miles southeast of Indianapolis.

"All kinds of trees are down, into houses," Bowling said. "I can see three houses right here in front of me that are just totally destroyed."

At Atterbury a tornado damaged more than 40 buildings, said Maj. Mike Brady, the post's spokesman.

"We are in the process of getting a good assessment of the actual damage that occurred from the tornado last night," he said.

There were no reports of injuries at the 33,000-acre facility 45 miles south of Indianapolis.. More than 2,000 Marines and Army soldiers are living at the fort this week in barracks and tents.

"We were able to warn everybody enough that they were able to take appropriate shelter," Brady said.

The storm caused significant damage to the post's World War II-era chapel, Brady said. Another chapel built by Italian prisoners housed at the camp during WWII, was not seriously damaged.

The National Weather Service said it was sending a team to assess damage from the storms south of Indianapolis.

Even without another tornado, more than an inch and a half of rain caused widespread street flooding in Indy. And a warm front pushing through the area today was expected to bring more thunderstorms, some of which could bring winds in excess of 60 mph, large hail and tornadoes, the weather service said.

The weather caused new power outages even as Indianapolis Power & Light worked to finish restoring power from last Friday's storm.

This morning the utility said that nearly 7,000 Marion County customers were without power.

That included 4,786 customers from this morning's storms, most in the area of 38th Street to 21st Street and Arlington Avenue to East Street, IPL said.

Fewer than 2,000 customers remain without power from Friday night's storm. Service to those customers should be restored today, unless delayed by bad weather, the utility said.

9:54 AM -- More than 1.5 inches of rain

According to the National Weather Service, there has been 1.56 inches of rainfall in Indianapolis since midnight.

The service doesn't expect there to be much more rain, said Meteorologist Steve Haines, but there is a slight risk of thunderstorms for this afternoon.

"It's not quite as unstable as it has been these last couple of days," he said, adding that Tuesday, the risk for thunderstorms was moderate.

The weather service will send out a team that will travel from Brown County to Bartholomew County to look for storm damage from last night's tornadoes. The team will report back to the weather service with updates this afternoon, Haines said.

-- Erin Dostal

9:26 AM -- Tornadoes rip up homes, 1 critically hurt

Tornadoes tore through central Indiana, destroying numerous homes and critically injuring at least one person, authorities said.

The wave of thunderstorms continued moving across the state's midsection today and caused widespread flash flooding as more than 3 inches of rain was reported overnight in some areas.

A tornado hit the small community of Moscow in Rush County, where numerous homes were turned to rubble and at least five people were hurt, state police Sgt. John Bowling said. One woman suffered critical injuries as her home was torn apart by the storm that hit late Tuesday, he said.

The storm also destroyed a 19th century covered bridge that leads into the community about 35 miles southeast of Indianapolis, along with tearing the top floor and roof from an old brick schoolhouse.

"All kinds of trees are down, into houses," Bowling said. "I can see three houses right here in front of me that are just totally destroyed."

The National Weather Service had flood warnings in effect this morning for most of central Indiana.

-- Associated Press

8:57 AM -- 40 buildings damaged at Army camp

An apparent tornado damaged more than 40 buildings, several trailers and vehicles at Camp Atterbury in Johnson County, Maj. Mike Brady said.

"We are in the process of getting a good assessment of the actual damage that occurred from the tornado last night," said Brady, the spokesman for the camp.

Brady said there were no reports of injuries at the 33,000-acre Indiana National Guard facility 45 miles south of Indianapolis.. More than 2,000 Marines and Army soldiers are living at the base this week in barracks and tents, Brady said.

"We were able to warn everybody enough that they were able to take appropriate shelter," Brady said.

The storm caused significant damage to the post's World War II-era chapel, Brady said. Another chapel built by Italian prisoners housed at the camp during WWII, was not seriously damaged, Brady said.

-- Vic Ryckaert

8:41 AM -- 7,000 without power in Indy.

Indianapolis Power and Light reports that nearly 7,000 customers are without power.

There are 4,786 customers without power from this morning's storms, most in the area of 38th Street to 21st Street and Arlington Avenue to East Street, IPL said on its Web site.

Fewer than 2,000 customers that remain without power from Friday night's storm. Service to those customers should be restored today, unless delayed by bad weather, the utility said.

8:24 AM -- Storm crushes Rush County community

The storm rolled through Rush County at about 9 p.m., destroying homes, trees and a historic covered bridge in Moscow, a small community about 40 miles southwest of Indianapolis, said Rich Van Wyk, a reporter for WTHR-TV (Channel 13), the Star's newsgathering partner.

The covered bridge, built in 1886, has been badly damaged, Van Wyk said.

"It's been knocked off the abutments," Van Wyk said. "It is shattered and lying in the creek."

At least seven people were injured, one seriously, Van Wyk said. The wind picked up one woman as it destroyed her home and dropped her about 50 feet away, Van Wyk said.

"A historic school has been destroyed. It looks like the top has been ripped off," Van Wyk said. "Trees

look like they've been sawed by a giant weed whacker.”

-- Vic Ryckaert

Earlier: High winds inflict widespread damage

Thunderstorms cut through south-central Indiana on Tuesday, spawning at least three possible tornadoes and causing widespread damage.

Tornado watches and flood watches or warnings remain in effect in the central part of the state this morning.

The National Weather Service tracked two tornadoes on the ground south of Indianapolis that triggered significant damage reports Tuesday night.

One storm was initially reported near St. Paul on the Shelby-Rush-Decatur line southeast of Indianapolis, where damage was reported to utility poles and wires were torn down. Weather Service meteorologist Joseph Nield said the same suspected tornado apparently hit the village of Moscow in southern Rush County.

A dispatcher with the Rush county sheriff's department said this morning that there were six injuries and no fatalities. The extent of the injuries was unknown. The storm destroyed a covered bridge in Moscow and damaged or destroyed several homes.

Another tornado was reported near Princes Lake north of Columbus and apparently then moved east to Edinburgh, meteorologist Logan Johnson said. A Johnson County sheriff's dispatcher said several tornado touchdowns were reported in the Edinburgh area. Damage also was reported in nearby Camp Atterbury.

Earlier in the day, the weather service said a small tornado touched down near Waverly, where television reports showed several trees down and buildings damaged.

Scattered damage was reported throughout central Indiana, and at one point more than 4,600 people were without electricity due to the storms. Power had been restored to about half of them by 11 p.m., Duke Energy reported on its Web site. Most of the outages were in Shelby County just southeast of Indianapolis and Wayne County in eastern Indiana.

One man suffered a broken foot Tuesday when storms damaged houses and trees about four miles north of Bedford, the weather service said.

Wind damage and heavy rain was reported in several areas and flash flooding warnings were issued.

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Woman Dies As Flash Flooding Hits Several Counties

Police: Woman Was On Bridge When It Washed Away

POSTED: 10:53 am EDT June 4, 2008

UPDATED: 1:44 pm EDT June 4, 2008

INDIANAPOLIS -- A woman died Wednesday when her car was washed away with a bridge in floodwaters in Henry County, police said.

The incident happened near County Road 250 North and Indiana 103, according to the Henry County Sheriff's Department.

A few cars were on the bridge, but the woman's car was the only one that washed away.

Another motorist called for help, and an Indiana State Police helicopter found the car.

Flash flood warnings were issued for numerous counties in central Indiana as another complex of thunderstorms dumped torrential rain on already saturated ground.

About 30 people voluntarily evacuated their homes in the western Indiana city of Clinton because of flash flooding along Feather Creek.

Officials said many residents of the city about 15 miles north of Terre Haute have been through flooding before and decided not to leave their homes.

Some cars became stranded in high water in the Randolph County town of Lynn, about 10 miles from the Indiana-Ohio state line.

Firefighters in Randolph County had been out since 4 a.m. rescuing people from high water.

U.S. 27 was under at least 18 inches of water north of Lynn and most roads in the county's southern half closed except for emergency vehicles.

Flash flooding was also prevalent in the northern part of Marion County, along Kessler Boulevard and Grandview Drive, threatening homes.

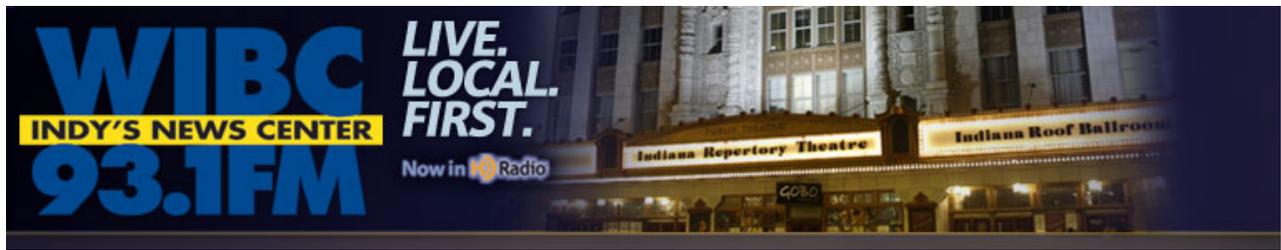
"We're bailing water as fast as we can. All the pumps are going," said resident Jonathan Hess. "We have a little emergency generator that is keeping us at a steady state right now, but we've got about 18 inches of water and rising in the basement."

Flooding was also reported along 75th Street at Binford Avenue in Indianapolis.

Additionally, flash flooding was reported in Putnam, Henry, Morgan, and Hendricks County.

With more rain possible throughout the day on Wednesday, more flash flooding will be possible.

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Storm Damage Assessments Coming In from All Over Indiana

By Devon Scott
6/2/2008

Emergency responders across Indiana are on clean-up duty thanks to Friday night's heavy storms.

Indianapolis' east side and the Tippecanoe Battle Ground outside Lafayette took the brunt of the damage.

Thousands woke up Monday without power as well.

John Erickson with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security says it will take several days to do a complete damage assessment.

No word yet on whether Indiana will seek help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Erickson says they have to hear from individual counties before making that call.

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Emergency Responders Continue Storm Cleanup

By Devon Scott
6/2/2008

Emergency responders across Indiana are on clean-up duty Monday thanks to Friday night's heavy storms. The Tippecanoe Battle Ground in Lafayette and Indianapolis' east side took damage and thousands woke up Monday still without power.

John Erickson with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security says it will take several days to do a complete damage assessment.

There's still no word on whether Indiana will seek aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Erickson says they have to hear from the individual counties before making the call to the feds.

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Friday night storm hammers northeast side

Posted: May 30, 2008 08:44 PM EDT

Updated: May 31, 2008 01:38 PM EDT

MARION COUNTY, Ind. (WISH) - The storms that moved across western parts of the state wreaked havoc in Marion County Friday night.

Indianapolis Power and Light reported 50,000 customers out of power as of 1:00 am Saturday morning.

The city estimates that 70-75 people went to John Marshall Middle School to seek shelter from the storm. But those people had to be bussed to an alternative location due to storm damage at John Marshall.

Some of the most severe damage appears to be at the Pinnacle Square Apartments located near 42nd and Post Road on the northeast side of Indianapolis where walls were torn away from buildings, exposing the insides of apartments. There were reports of injuries at the scene.

At the Brentwood Apartments, also near 42nd and Post Rd., people were injured and trapped inside the complex after some of the upper floors in the complex collapsed onto the lower floors. Police and fire crews at the scene conducted door-to-door searches throughout the complex.

Apartment residents from both Brentwood and Pinnacle Square talked to 24-Hour News 8.

--For more on the storm scroll down past the transcript.

The following is a transcript from a phone interview conducted with 24-Hour News 8 photo journalist David Hodge from the Brentwood Apartments:

Hodge: I'M ON 42ND AND POST AREA. WE GOT SOME COLLAPSED APARTMENT BUILDINGS. THEY HAVE COLLAPSED FROM THE REVOLVE DOWN TO THE FIRST FLOOR. IT'S MULTIPLE LEVELS. RIGHT NOW, WE RE WITH A GENTLEMAN...PART OF HIS ROOF FELL ON HIS LEG AND HE WAS TRAPPED AND THE PARAMEDICS ARE HERE REMOVING HIM FROM HIS APARTMENT HERE AT 4144 BRENTWOOD. WE VE GOT RESIDENTS THAT ARE HUNKERED DOWN INSIDE THEIR APARTMENTS RIGHT NOW. I THINK WE CAN GET AN EYEWITNESS IN JUST A MOMENT. LADIES, LADIES, WHO WAS HERE AT THE TIME WHEN THE STORM? CAN YOU TALK LIVE?

Eyewitness: WE JUST HEARD LOUD THUNDER, A LOT OF DEBRIS GOING AROUND AND WE JUST RAN FOR COVER. I CAME BACK OUT IN THE CLOSET. IT WAS COMPLETELY GONE AND THE BACK PART OF IT IS NO MORE. THAT IS AMAZING.

Hodge: NO ONE INJURED IN YOUR GROUP?

Eyewitness: NO ONE INJURED. EVERYBODY IS SAFE.

Hodge: OKAY. THAT'S A EYEWITNESS. YOU CAN HEAR THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING AND THE WIND AND RAIN. IT'S TOUGH OUT HERE, GUYS. I THINK THE PARAMEDICS WOULD LIKE TO PEOPLE TO STAY OUT OF THE AREA SO THEY CAN GET THEIR JOBS DONE. THERE S A LOT OF COLLAPSED BUILDINGS OUT HERE. THERE'S STORES FILLED WITH BRICKS, GLASS, POWERLINES ARE DOWN

AND LIKE I SAID, THE WIND IS BLOWING PRETTY HARD. THEY WANT EVERYONE TO STAY OUT OF THE AREA SO THEY CAN GET THEIR JOB DONE AND THEY ARE DOING DOOR TO DOOR SEARCHED.

24-Hour News 8 Reporter Jeane Coakley talked to one woman at the Pinnacle Square Apartments who's apartment was destroyed by the storm.

Woman: I NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE IN MY LIFE!

Jeane Coakley: WHERE DID YOU GUYS GO AND HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

Woman: WE WAS IN THE BATHROOM. MY SON SAID "LET ME MAKE A WAY SO YOU CAN GET UP OUT OF HERE." THEN THE GUY CAME FROM DOWNSTAIRS AND MY SON STARTED TRYING TO MOVE SO I...I COULDN T MOVE AND EVERYTHING COME ON DOWN ON US. BECAUSE THE CEILING, IT WAS ALREADY DOWN, SO HE MADE A WAY FOR US TO GET OUT THAT FRONT DOOR. EVEN THOUGH I WAS SCARED TO GO ACROSS IT. WELL, HE MADE A WAY FOR US TO GET OUT. AND WE CAME DOWN HERE.

Coakley: AND EVERYBODY IS OKAY?

Woman: ALL BUT MY OLD MAN. HE GOT HURT. I GOT HIT WITH SOMETHING. I DON T KNOW WHAT IT WAS. I WAS JUST TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE WAY. ON MY ARM. BUT WE MADE IT INTO THAT BATHROOM.

Coakley: ARE YOU PRETTY SHAKEN?

Woman: UH-HUH. MY SON TOLD ME DON'T CRY, MOM. DON T CRY. BUT IT HURTS TO SEE SOMETHING LIKE THIS. I DONE WORK SO HARD FOR TO GET AND THEN IT JUST GO LIKE THAT. I AIN T NEVER BEEN IN NOTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE INTO MY LIFE. IN MY LIFE.

Debbie Fletcher of the Marion County Emergency Management described the department's efforts.

"Basically all we'll be doing is responding at this point...we'll also be monitoring. We've got control operators down in the emergency operations center keeping an eye on any further calls that we might get with people injured or further damage as it goes along."

"We'll be bringing in the parks department and they'll be working as quickly as they can to get some of the trees out of the road and some of the debris out of the way. ...Really, what we're trying to do is get it cleaned up enough and stabilized enough so that we can get through to the morning. In the morning, the National Weather Service will come out and they'll do their determination to find out whether it was a tornado or straight-line winds."

Fletcher said people should use caution driving on the roads overnight.

"Don't go out if you don't have to. Not that we're telling anyone to stay off of the roads. ...The biggest thing is, being dark, it's hard to see where you are going and if there is a tree limb in the way, you could get injured."

All across Indianapolis viewers reported heavy rain, lightning strikes and strong winds.

IMPD Sgt. Paul Thompson told 24-Hour News 8 that part of his roof was blown off and his house is flooded. Thompson lives on the far east side of Indianapolis near 30th Street and German Church Road.

North of Indianapolis, there were reports of trees down over 106th Street between Allisonville and Hague roads.

The National Weather Service said weather spotters reported two tornadoes northeast of Lafayette about 7:30 p.m.

Duke Energy reported thousands of customers are without electricity.

[See the county-by-county outage reports on the Duke Energy Web site.](#)

More weather damage coverage...

Hancock County police said downed powerlines trapped several people in their cars on State Road 9 north of the town of Maxwell. Police told them to stay in their cars until they could determine whether the lines are hot.

Lebanon police said two houses were struck by lightning. No injuries have been reported as a result of the strikes.

The weather service says winds estimated at 70 to 80 mph downed trees and damaged homes in Andrews in Huntington County near Fort Wayne, and the storm dumped more than 4 inches of rain in White County. Tornado warnings were issued for several counties as the storms headed southeast.

In Carroll County, a storm shelter in the basement of the courthouse was reported flooded by heavy rain.

Police in Wabash County reported that a roof was blown off of a structure and what appeared to be a funnel cloud was spotted in the area.

Keep checking with WISHTV.com and the [Detailed Forecast Blog](#) for updates.

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Tornadoes cause damage, injuries in central Indiana

Posted: June 3, 2008 09:20 PM EDT

Updated: June 4, 2008 02:11 PM EDT

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH/AP) - Another round of severe storms battered Indiana overnight, spawning tornadoes, strong winds and flooding rains. The most severe damage was from a tornado that tore through the small town of Moscow, Indiana.

Several homes in Moscow were turned to rubble and at least ten people were hurt, one critically.

A 66-year-old woman was impaled in the upper chest by a 3-inch diameter tree limb when a tornado leveled her home. Diane Hester is in critical but stable condition at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

The tornado destroyed a 19th century covered bridge and ripped the top floor from an old brick school.

[Check out pictures of the storm in the photo gallery](#)

The overnight storms also damaged 40 buildings, including the post chapel, at the Indiana National Guard's Camp Atterbury about 25 miles south of Indianapolis.

Two soldiers were hurt as they were driving back to the base to seek shelter when their car struck a gate. More than 2,000 troops are at the camp.

At least three people were injured in Greene County. There were reports of tornadoes near Bloomfield and Ownesboro. Several homes were damaged or destroyed. Highway traffic in and out of Bloomfield has been temporarily stopped.

In Edinburgh, several buildings were destroyed or damaged. And, in the area north of Waldron, a possible tornado left behind a path of destruction for about a three block radius in Shelby County.

One viewer sent in pictures to 24-Hour News 8 of what appears to be a funnel cloud in Shelbyville.

On Tuesday, the weather service confirmed a small tornado touched down near [Waverly](#).

Severe weather also blew through Bedford. The high winds uprooted trees, snapped power lines, and knocked siding off some homes.

The Lawrence County Sheriff believes it was a tornado, but so far there's been no official word.

For more information regarding the storms, check out the [WISHTV.com Weather Blog](#).

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Flash flooding leads to evacuations, water rescues

Posted: June 4, 2008 08:10 AM EDT

Updated: June 4, 2008 11:07 AM EDT

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH/AP) - The National Weather Service had flood warnings in effect today for most of central Indiana.

About 30 people voluntarily evacuated their homes in the western Indiana city of Clinton because of flash flooding along Feather Creek.

In Hancock County, 2 West of U.S. 40 is closed due to high water. Most roads in the western part of the county are also closed because of high water.

In Hendricks County, numerous power outages are being reported in Danville. High water and downed trees have closed a park.

Brownsburg has flooded roads and power outages. According to officials, the Tilden Terrace subdivision is in bad shape and no one can get in right now. Winton Meadows subdivision is also flooded. Also, Brownsburg fire house #132 off 267 is closed because of flood waters.

High water is also reported at 455 W and 1075 North by Pittsboro, and 100 N and 425 East.

Also, Avon Lakes mobile home park in Avon is flooded.

Several water rescues took place around Indianapolis Wednesday morning along Keystone Avenue, Fall Creek Parkway, Sherman Drive, Shadeland Avenue, Massachusetts Avenue, Bayhead Drive, Corporation Drive, Hoover Road, and Allisonville Road.

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Several injuries reported in overnight tornadoes

Associated Press - June 4, 2008 8:34 AM ET

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - State police say one woman was critically injured when a tornado hit the small central Indiana community of Moscow overnight.

The National Weather Service confirms that two tornadoes touched down in central Indiana overnight.

State Police say several people were injured in the town about 35 miles southeast of Indianapolis. The tornado destroyed a covered bridge and ripped the top floor off of an old brick schoolhouse. Several homes were damaged or destroyed.

Tornado damage was also reported in Edinburgh and on the grounds of Camp Atterbury. A camp spokesman says the storm skipped over buildings where troops were staying, but hit some storage buildings. Over 2,000 troops are training at the camp.

Flood watches and warnings are in effect across central Indiana after heavy rain from the storms.

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Flash flooding leads to evacuations, water rescues

Associated Press - June 4, 2008 10:24 AM ET

CLINTON, Ind. (AP) - The National Weather Service had flood warnings in effect today for most of central Indiana.

About 30 people voluntarily evacuated their homes in the western Indiana city of Clinton because of flash flooding along Feather Creek.

Officials say many residents of the city about 15 miles north of Terre Haute have been through flooding before and decided not to leave their homes.

Some cars became stranded in high water in the Randolph County town of Lynn, about 10 miles from the Indiana-Ohio state line.

Firefighters in Randolph County had been out since 4 a.m. rescuing people from high water. U.S. 27 was under at least 18 inches of water north of Lynn and most roads in the county's southern half closed except for emergency vehicles.

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June 4, 2008

Flood warning issued for Delaware, Henry, Randolph

THE STAR PRESS

MUNCIE — As a result of heavy overnight rainfall — and continuing rain today — a flood warning has been issued for small streams in southern Delaware County and in Henry and Randolph counties until 6 a.m. Thursday.

A stretch of U.S. 35 is closed this morning because of flooding. Police have put up a warning sign along U.S. 35 at Eaton Avenue, just south of the bypass, advising motorists that the highway is closed to the south due to flooding in Henry and Randolph counties.

Early this morning, National Weather Service radar indicated that 3-5 inches of rain had fallen since Tuesday morning, with additional rainfall of 1-2 inches expected today.

A flood warning means that flooding is imminent or has been reported. Streams are expected to rise slowly. Flash flooding is not expected, although a flash food watch has been issued, according to the NWS.

Drivers should avoid driving into areas where water covers the roadway. Local police are monitoring the area for roads that are underwater.

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Storms and high winds batter Kansas, Indiana, Ohio

13 hours ago

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — Authorities say lightning from a line of strong thunderstorms crashing through the Midwest ignited a large fire at a petroleum terminal in downtown Kansas City, Kan.

City fire Capt. Stan Castaneda says lightning struck a large storage tank at the Magellan Pipeline facility near downtown. The massive fire has sent flames and dark smoke billowing into the sky.

No injuries have been reported.

Later Tuesday night, storms battered southeastern Kansas and western Missouri, with winds between 70-90 mph blowing tractor trailers off the road, downing trees and power lines, and toppling billboards, according to the National Weather Service.

Up to 3 inches of rain fell in areas of Johnson County and golf-ball sized hail was reported near Franklin County in eastern Kansas, according to the weather service. Spotters reported an overturned semitrailer in Wilson County in southeast Kansas and a wind gust of 112 mph was recorded at an airport in Cowley County.

Thunderstorms also cut through south-central Indiana on Tuesday, spawning at least three tornadoes and causing widespread damage. Scattered damage was reported throughout central Indiana, and at one point more than 4,600 people were without electricity.

A funnel cloud was spotted as part of the storm system heading from Indiana into Ohio as thunderstorms raged across the central and southern portions of Ohio on Tuesday night, dropping up to 2 inches of rain per hour, the National Weather Service reported.

Up to 3 inches of rain had fallen in two to three hours and up to 2 more inches was expected, the Weather Service reported, and a flash flood watch was to last through Wednesday afternoon in many areas.

[Return to Severe Weather](#)

Tornado rips through Indiana town, others possible

By DEANNA MARTIN – 2 hours ago

MOSCOW, Ind. (AP) — Tornadoes ripped through this central Indiana community and skipped over National Guard barracks full of sleeping soldiers as thunderstorms battered the Ohio Valley, authorities said Wednesday.

No deaths were reported.

More thunderstorms streamed across the Midwest on Wednesday and the National Weather Service issued severe thunderstorm warnings for parts of Ohio and West Virginia, with tornado watches for sections of Indiana, West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and the western tip of Maryland.

Flash flood warnings were in effect for parts of Indiana. The weather service said as much as 5 inches of rain had fallen in 24 hours an additional 1.5 inches of rain was possible.

One tornado battered Moscow, a community of about 80 residents about 35 miles southeast of Indianapolis. It destroyed one house, damaged four or five others and knocked down trees and utility lines, officials said.

One woman was in critical condition after being impaled in the upper chest by a 3-inch-diameter tree limb, said Charles Smith, chief of the Posey Township Volunteer Fire Department. He helped rescue her from storm debris.

"Her house was gone, along the side of the river bank. There's nothing left of it," he said. "She didn't talk, but she was moaning. I just hope she makes it."

The twister late Tuesday also destroyed a 19th-century covered bridge and ripped the top floor and roof from an old four-story brick schoolhouse.

Authorities closed roads into Moscow on Wednesday as heavy rain and lightning continued. Many nearby roads and fields were flooded and others were strewn with downed power lines, fallen tree limbs and other debris.

Another tornado damaged 40 buildings at the Indiana National Guard's Camp Atterbury, about 25 miles south of Indianapolis. Two soldiers suffered minor injuries as they sought shelter, camp spokesman Capt. Greg Lundeberg said.

More than 2,000 troops are at the camp, including a Marine unit training for deployment to Iraq, and the tornado skipped over buildings where they were sleeping, Lundeberg said.

Flash flooding was reported in parts of Indiana on Wednesday and firefighters in Randolph County had been out since 4 a.m. rescuing people, Sheriff Jay Harris said. Most roads in the county's southern half were closed except for emergency vehicles

"We've had to pluck probably 10 to ... 20 people out of vehicles, out of their houses," Harris said. "We've had to rescue some livestock this morning."

In Ohio, weather service meteorologist Andy Hatzos in Wilmington said countless funnel clouds had been reported by early Wednesday, but no tornadoes had been confirmed.

Rain fell at a rate of 2 inches an hour in parts of Ohio, the weather service said. Flooding was reported in several communities around Dayton.

About 24,000 Duke Energy customers in the Cincinnati area lost power but most were back on line Wednesday, the company said.

Farther west, flames and smoke were visible for miles Wednesday in Kansas City, Kan., as firefighters allowed a huge fire to burn itself out in a gasoline storage tank.

Fire department Capt. Stan Castaneda said the fire started when the Magellan Pipeline terminal tank was hit by lightning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. No injuries were reported. Magellan spokesman Jon Jacobs said the tank contained about 1.2 million gallons of unleaded gasoline, about half its capacity.

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Whether flowing or flooding, the Yellow River is witness to the past

Wednesday, 28 May 2008

By Marianne Peters Correspondent

PLYMOUTH — On June 7, the Yellow River Festival returns to Plymouth for its second year along the river bank on LaPorte Street.

This free event celebrates the early life of Marshall County settlers and Native Americans between the years 1834 and 1864.

It will feature music (this year including the Celtic band Kennedy's Kitchen), games, crafts, food, volunteers in period dress, and a Civil War encampment. Canoe rides will offer the best view of the river and, with a little imagination, a gateway to the past.

The celebration's focus is the Yellow River, an unassuming stream that bisects the town of Plymouth — big enough to be called a river, but small enough that people sometimes chuckle at that definition. Most of the time, it receives very little attention.

Until last January, that is. Thanks to snow melt and rainfall, the Yellow flooded, blocking traffic on Jefferson and Garro Streets, flowing into homes, and cancelling school. Suddenly, traveling across town was not guaranteed. The Red Cross set up an emergency shelter at the Church of Christ. People left their soaked belongings behind and moved in with friends for a few days. Kids rejoiced at their unexpected days off, and rumor had it that at least one teenager attempted to navigate the flood waters in a rowboat until the police fetched him out. The river became not an afterthought, but actually a threat to our way of life, as if to remind us that it had been here a lot longer than we had, and it was still going to be here when we were gone.

Every river starts somewhere, and the Yellow arises in St. Joseph County, Indiana, not far from Bremen. Flowing southward through the farmlands and woodlands of Northern Indiana, it turns westward in Bourbon Town-ship, meandering through Plymouth, past Twin Lakes where Chief Menominee's statue stands watch, and into Starke County toward Illinois.

Since it's not a large waterway, the river flows much as it has for centuries. It was formed after the Ice Age, when glaciers carved the landscape, leaving behind a land of rolling hills, small lakes, rivers, and the Great Kankakee Marsh, now drained. One portion of it through Starke County was diverted into a straight beeline for several miles, but otherwise it has made its own path through the countryside. At one particular bend in the river, an early surveyor observed that that might be a good place for a town. In 1834, Plymouth was established at that spot, but native people had been familiar with the Yellow years before white settlers arrived.

Perhaps it's possible to canoe the Yellow River and see the shoreline much the way the Native Americans did when they alone occupied this land. At the Yellow River Festival, you will have that

opportunity. Come for a free canoe ride down a portion of the river, imagining a time in the past when the only visitors were ancient native peoples and the creatures that depended on this waterway for survival.

The second annual Yellow River Festival takes place Saturday, June 7, 2008, from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. on LaPorte Street, near the old footbridge. Admission is free.

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Severe storms pound area, dump rain National Weather Service receives reports of funnel cloud, tornado touchdown

BY PAM THARP • CORRESPONDENT • JUNE 4, 2008

East-central Indiana and southwestern [Ohio](#) were afflicted Tuesday night with strong winds, severe thunderstorms and heavy rains, leading to flooded roads and downed wires and trees.

No injuries were reported late Tuesday.

The Indiana-American Water Co. reported 1.1 inches of rain fell Tuesday before midnight at Middlefork Reservoir.

At 8:53 p.m. [the National Weather Service](#) reported one-inch hail in Cambridge City, said meteorologist Allen Randall at the Wilmington, Ohio, office.

Duke Energy's power outage Web site showed about 1,420 customers, mostly in western Wayne County near Cambridge City, were without power.

Wayne County dispatcher Tia Penaranda said a tree was down on Abington Township Line Road and county crews were responding. Wires were also reported to be down, possibly leading to fires within the 4700 block of U.S. 27 North and the 200 block of North 22nd Street in Richmond.

At 9:37 p.m., the weather service received reports of a funnel cloud over Preble County but no damage was indicated. By 10 p.m., roads were said to be flooded in Preble County.

Randall also had an unconfirmed report of a tornado touchdown near U.S. 27 close to College Corner and Oxford, Ohio.

Union County was hit with a double whammy Tuesday when tornado-like winds blew across the county around 8:30 p.m. and then a round of severe thunderstorms dumped more rain across the county around 10 p.m.

Liberty Assistant Fire Chief Kenny Alcorn said there were no injuries or significant damage from either storm, but firefighters would stay at the station until the tornado warning was lifted.

"We had a lot of rain and lightning and there's a lot of water on the roads," Alcorn said. "Tornadoes were sighted in the northern part of the county over Brownsville and on U.S. 27 South near Burnside Park and south of town, but they never did drop down to the ground."

There were also reports of low-level flooding in West College Corner and College Corner.

Volunteer firefighters, ambulance medics, police officers, deputies and reserve officers all came to work during the storm, according to the Union County dispatch office.

Water on the roads is a real hazard, dispatcher Sue Estridge said. U.S. 27 had water running across it at Pottershop Road around 11 p.m. and truckers were trying to slow the traffic there, she said. State highway officials were putting up signs.

Mitchell, Nine-Mile and Retherford roads and County Road 200 N. all were closed by water.

Rush County appears to be the hardest hit from the storm, Estridge said. There are houses blown down there and people trapped and the [Indiana](#) State Police has sent many officers there to assist the local departments, she said.

The first storm crossed Union County from the west through Roseburg and took aim at Bath in Franklin County on its way to Oxford, Ohio. Winds that were blowing from the west were suddenly coming from the east, accompanied by a roaring wind high above the trees.

The sky was a purple-blue over Bath during the first storm, but resident Betty Seibert said there didn't appear to be any significant damage there either.

"We went to the basement, the first time in the 34 years we've lived here," Seibert said. "It was a little scary. The TV said we were in a direct line, but there was no damage we could see. It may have gone a little south of us in the Hetrick Road area."

Staff writers Rachel Sheeley and Millicent Martin contributed to this report.

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WEATHER: Area remains under flash flood warning, tornado watch

PALLADIUM-ITEM • JUNE 4, 2008

Severe weather continues to roll through the area this morning, leaving most of east-central [Indiana](#) and west-central Ohio under some mixture of warnings and watches from the National Weather Service.

Flash flood warning and watch

A flash flood warning is in effect for Wayne County in Indiana and Darke and Preble counties in [Ohio](#) until 9:15 a.m. today.

Randolph County in Indiana is under a flash flood watch until this afternoon.

An estimated 3-5 inches of rain already has fallen across the area with another inch possible through 9:15 a.m. Runoff from this excessive rainfall will cause flash flooding to occur.

Heavy rains flood roads and low-lying areas rapidly. Do not drive your vehicle into water of an unknown depth on the road. It only takes 2 feet of rushing water to carry away most SUVs and pickups. Take a different route to reach your destination or wait until the water recedes.

Tornado watch

A tornado watch is in effect until 11 a.m. today for Fayette, Randolph, Union and Wayne counties in Indiana and Butler, Darke and Preble counties in Ohio.

Flood warning and watch

Randolph County is under a flood warning through 6 a.m. Thursday.

Meanwhile, a flood watch will last through this evening for Fayette, Franklin, Union and Wayne counties in Indiana and Butler, Darke and Preble counties in Ohio.

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Flash flood warning extended for Darke County

PALLADIUM-ITEM • JUNE 4, 2008

The National Weather Service has extended the flash flood warning for Darke County in [Ohio](#) until 12:45 p.m. today.

An estimated 3-4 inches of rain has fallen in the county since yesterday, and county law enforcement reports numerous roads are still flooded.

Heavy rain continues to fall with another 1-1.5 inches possible through 12:45 p.m. Runoff from this excessive rainfall will cause flash flooding to occur.

Heavy rains flood roads and low-lying areas rapidly. Do not drive your vehicle into water of an unknown depth on the road. It only takes 2 feet of rushing water to carry away most SUVs and pickups. Take a different route to reach your destination or wait until the water recedes.

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Published: June 03, 2008 12:23 pm

PHOTO UPDATE: Feather Creek floods in Clinton, residents flee

Vermillion County, Clinton declared disaster areas

By Deb Kelly
The Tribune-Star

CLINTON — At Sixth and Sycamore streets in Clinton, neighbors waded in water up to their knees Tuesday, holding onto small pets and saying hello to one another across the flooded intersections.

Heavy storms dumped nearly four inches of rain overnight and into the morning hours, adding to the already-saturated ground and waterways in Vermillion and surrounding counties.

By 11:15 a.m., the Vermillion County Board of Commissioners and the mayor of Clinton had declared a disaster for the county and for the city of Clinton. By late in the afternoon, flooding had damaged numerous homes, buildings, bridges and roads, according to a release sent out by city and county officials.

John and Janie Jones, who live on Sixth and Sycamore, were taking the high water all in stride. Janie Jones said she grew up wading in the flood waters when she lived down at the other end of the street.

The Joneses have fortified their home, raising it up three feet off the ground. One of the Joneses' dogs, Bear, sat on the family's back step, looking at the small river in front of him.

"It won't get in the house," Janie said, laughing, as water bubbled up out of a drain in the street. "It was a lot deeper last time when the river came out with it," she added, saying, "Usually it comes up and goes right back down."

Feather Creek, which runs through town, caused the greatest amount of trouble, officials said. Ray Colombo, director of the Vermillion County Emergency Management Agency, said the foundation of a house on 11th Street caved in under the water pressure.

Kirt Lowry, public information officer for the Vermillion County Emergency Management Agency, said several houses in the Feather Creek area had water in their basements.

As of about 4 p.m., much of the water had receded, Lowry added. "This was just a flash flood incident."

Although residents had been encouraged to evacuate throughout the day, Colombo said he knew of only two people who had left their homes to seek higher ground.

"This is not bad," said Rose Lindsey, a resident of the area for more than 30 years.

Colombo said the evacuations are "mandatory, but basically still voluntary. You can't make 'em leave. We ask 'em to leave," he said.

Colombo said the Fire Department first came through the area with loudspeakers to announce the evacuations.

"We warn the people first," he said. "Then you come back with the boat over in that area, knock on doors,

and if they want to leave, we help them. Most people that live down here are used to this and they tough it out," Colombo added. "But we're here now if they need us."

Deb Kelly can be reached at (812) 231-4254 or deb.kelly@tribstar.com.

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Published: June 03, 2008 10:35 pm

Flood Risk Open House draws a crowd

By Brian M. Boyce

The Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE — Changes in Vigo County's flood plain designations prompted state officials to host a Flood Risk Open House on Tuesday evening in the County Annex building.

According to a sign-in sheet at the open house's registration table, about 100 people had come through between 5 and 8 p.m. to learn about flood insurance and whether or not their parcel would be affected by the designation changes.

"We sent out a little over 1,000 letters," said David Knipe of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Division of Water.

Each owner of an affected parcel was issued a letter informing them of the changes and encouraging them to attend Tuesday night's meeting.

Some parcels were switched into the flood plain status while others were taken out, Knipe said, describing it as "an even split," brought about by "better-detailed topography."

IDEM co-hosted the project along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and both groups had booths available with flood insurance information.

One of the areas being switched into the flood zone, and thus now requiring flood insurance, is an area north of Lafayette Avenue at Sycamore Street.

Exact locations of the changes can be accessed online at www.floodmaps.in.gov, by selecting Vigo County.

Knipe said links for information on flood insurance are also online there.

Brian Boyce can be reached at (812) 231-4253 or brian.boyce@tribstar.com.

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Published: June 03, 2008 12:23 pm

PHOTO UPDATE: Feather Creek floods in Clinton, residents flee

Vermillion County, Clinton declared disaster areas

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The Tribune-Star

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John and Janie Jones, who live on Sixth and Sycamore, were taking the high water all in stride. Janie Jones said she grew up wading in the flood waters when she lived down at the other end of the street.

The Joneses have fortified their home, raising it up three feet off the ground. One of the Joneses' dogs, Bear, sat on the family's back step, looking at the small river in front of him.

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out," Colombo added. "But we're here now if they need us."

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FEMA reassigns flood plains throughout Vigo County

Posted: June 2, 2008 06:23 PM EDT

Updated: June 2, 2008 06:30 PM EDT

VIGO COUNTY, Ind. (WTHI) - After more than twenty years the federal government is updating Vigo county flood maps.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, known as FEMA is moving properties in or out of flood plains. That's because more than two decades of development has sent more rain into the river instead of the ground.

Homeowners who find their properties now in a flood plan may have an added expense. "It would be mandatory to carry flood insurance if you have a mortgage and are found to be in a flood plain," said Darren Maher, Assistant Director of Area Planning for Vigo County.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources sent a letter and a brochure out to property owners, telling them their flood status may have changed.

Jerry Keith, a West Terre Haute resident and secretary of the West Terre Haute Levee Association, received one of those letters.

Keith expressed concern for his fellow residents who may have to buy flood insurance. "A lot of these people can't afford homeowner's insurance. I don't know how the heck they are going to afford it," said Keith.

Keith is encouraging his neighbors to attend a public meeting with FEMA Tuesday night in the County Council chambers of the Vigo County Annex. That meeting runs from 5 p.m to 8 p.m.

"If they got a mortgage or they own property over here, I encourage them to go to this meeting. That's the only way they're going to find out," said Keith.

Not all homeowners in Vigo County received letters. If residents have property that is prone to flooding or is situated near current flood plains, they may want to check the property's status at the meeting.

"This would be the opportunity for someone who doesn't really understand the flood maps or has a dispute with them to be able to go straight to the people who are the creators of the maps," said Darren Maher.

Tuesday kicks of a ninety-day probationary period for the maps before they will be finalized.

After those 90 days have passed and disputes have been addressed, the federal government will make those changes final.

FLOOD RISK OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

5pm to 8pm

County Council Chambers

Vigo County Annex

127 Oak Street

Terre Haute, Indiana

Report by Jeanne Power, WTHI

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Flash flooding leads to evacuations, water rescues

Associated Press - June 4, 2008 10:24 AM ET

CLINTON, Ind. (AP) - The National Weather Service had flood warnings in effect today for most of central Indiana.

About 30 people voluntarily evacuated their homes in the western Indiana city of Clinton because of flash flooding along Feather Creek.

Officials say many residents of the city about 15 miles north of Terre Haute have been through flooding before and decided not to leave their homes.

Some cars became stranded in high water in the Randolph County town of Lynn, about 10 miles from the Indiana-Ohio state line.

Firefighters in Randolph County had been out since 4 a.m. rescuing people from high water. U.S 27 was under at least 18 inches of water north of Lynn and most roads in the county's southern half closed except for emergency vehicles.

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County cleans up after storm

By the WPD staff and The Associated Press
Sunday, June 1, 2008 9:00 PM EDT

Wabash and several surrounding towns shared in the state's ugly weather Friday evening.

The worst of the storm went through Wabash between 6 and 8:30 p.m., leaving downed trees, limbs and power poles. Downed, too, were enough power lines to keep REMC and Duke Energy occupied through much of the weekend restoring power.

Unconfirmed reports had power still out in some areas as late as Sunday morning. Wabash-Miami County REMC officials were unavailable for an update Sunday evening.

Duke Energy's Web site reported 5,313 outages in Wabash County since 5:30 p.m. Friday, but report only three outages as of 8 p.m. Sunday.

Across the state, Duke Energy reported 41,140 customers without power since 5:30 p.m. Friday and 619 outages as of 8 p.m. Sunday.

Lightning joined the wind and heavy rain in causing damage: An apparent lightning strike at the North Central Co-op building on South Wabash Street about 8:15 did not touch off a fire, but one two hours earlier near the home of Tracy Wiley, 1175 Hawthorne Ave., ignited a fire in an exterior wall.

Wabash firefighters were two hours tending to it and reported damage at \$30,000, or \$10,000 to the building and \$20,000 to contents. Apparently, lightning had struck a nearby tree, causing a limb to fall on a power line, and the line touched off the fire in the home.

School officials reported wind blew away part of the Wabash Middle School gym roof.

Elsewhere trees, even big trees, were down in places all over the county. About 7:30 p.m. the Wabash County Sheriff's Department was called to 438S-325E, where a tree was reported on an occupied vehicle. No one was hurt.

Elsewhere, downed trees and power lines on Ind. 13 near Friends Church kept that portion of the highway closed through much of Saturday and forced the church to cancel services Sunday.

Elsewhere in the city, trees were down near the Carroll Street Bridge, in the 900 block of Alber Street and a tree was reported on a vehicle near 75 E. Harrison Ave.

Continued on Page 3A.

In the county, trees were down on Ind. 524 near Pefley's, on Ind. 524 near Blue Star Highway,

and a tree had reported blown over onto a home near 6412W-100S. Again there was no report of injury.

Also put out of service during the storm were numerous stop lights.

The National Weather Service at North Webster issued a tornado warning for central and southern Wabash County at 6:06 p.m. and it expired at 6:45 p.m. At 7:10 p.m. the Emergency Operations Center was activated by Wabash County Emergency Management personnel.

The WCEMA conducted damage assessment through Saturday.

Personnel involved in public safety, traffic control and clean-up were from the following agencies, in addition to the WCEMA: City and North Manchester police, Indiana State Police, the Wabash Fire Department, the LaFontaine Town Marshal's office, the Wabash County Sheriff's Department, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the American Red Cross, and the state, county and city street departments.

Elsewhere, residents cleaned up Saturday after a tornado plowed a trail of destruction through the east side of Indianapolis, but they gave thanks that nobody was killed and that the only injuries were minor.

The storm blew through late Friday, ripping roofs off several apartment buildings, snapping trees and toppling power lines. Eighteen people were treated for "very minor" injuries, said John Ball, the area's emergency management director.

"It is a miracle that we didn't have serious injuries or death," he said. "A gentleman told me last night at the shelter that he was lying in bed and heard a rumble, and the roof was gone and he saw the sky."

Winds snapped trees, wrapped metal sheeting around a telephone pole and left a four-block-wide trail of debris about a mile long. Gas station pumps were knocked over, roof shingles shredded, and power lines and tree branches scattered.

The storm knocked out power to more than 100,000 customers. Many thousands remained without power Saturday afternoon, utilities said.

The American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis housed 170 people overnight in a church gym near a destroyed apartment complex in the city of nearly 800,000.

"Some of these folks came in with the clothes on their backs or pajamas, and they were soaked, too," said spokeswoman Beth Smietana.

More came later Saturday morning to register for help or pick up baby formula, bottles and diapers.

Natasha Prim, who registered for help, said she and her mother had finished dinner and were

enjoying a quiet night when she heard tornado sirens followed by silence.

“All of a sudden you could hear the wind picking up, and it just kept getting stronger and stronger,” said Prim, 29.

They ran to a closet in the middle of her first-floor apartment and heard the storm tear the roof off.

“It just sounded like 20 trains coming at you,” she said. “It seemed like forever, but it was probably 45 seconds at that.”

The storm blew out the windows of Latasha Lewis' home, tore a hole through her kitchen roof and ripped her screen door off the front door with the frame still attached. Lewis, 28, fled to her mother's house and managed only to grab some clothes. She also stopped by the shelter for help.

Her 1-year-old daughter, Chardea, played with a stuffed Mickey Mouse doll provided by the Red Cross as people stood in line nearby, waiting to register.

“It could have always been worse,” said Latasha's mother, Gwen Lewis. “Thank God, at least we're living.”

The tornado was part of a system that swept through the Midwest with heavy rain, high winds, thunder and lightning. Damage was also reported in Illinois, as well as in Ohio, where a tornado destroyed several homes near Arcadia.

Near Washington, D.C., firefighters reported a possible tornado, but no injuries or damage were reported.

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