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**RELEASE DATE:**  
4/2/2025

## PRESS RELEASE

### Emergency Management: Wednesday storm underscores the importance of readiness

ROGERS COUNTY, Okla. - Wednesday's early morning weather event that traveled into Rogers County from east of Owasso highlights the need for preparedness.

Of the event, Director Scotty Stokes with Rogers County Emergency Management said, "We believe the Owasso tornado that happened this morning weakened as it entered Rogers County; but we are waiting on the official word from the National Weather Service in Tulsa as they will determine if it was a tornado and what the strength was in Rogers County."

The event caused roof damage, lofted a pole barn across SH-20, and caused some minor damages like scattered shingles, fences, uprooted small trees, and damaged power poles - to name a few - in Commissioner Chairman Steve Hendrix's District 2.

Hendrix said, "We are fortunate that the extent of the storm did not have a heavier impact. Having witnessed severe weather in our county over the years, we understand how crucial it is to be prepared. I strongly encourage citizens to stay informed and take proactive steps to ensure readiness for any type of natural disaster to protect themselves and their families."

Spring brings an increased risk of severe weather, including thunderstorms, damaging winds, hail, and tornadoes. The weather in Oklahoma is notoriously unpredictable, making early preparation crucial.

While peak severe weather months typically range from March to June, Stokes emphasized that tornadoes could occur any month of the year in our area suggesting ways citizens can prepare.

"Now is the ideal time to ensure storm shelters are clean, accessible, and stocked with emergency supplies such as flashlights, batteries, water, non-perishable food, and a first aid kit. Remember to keep an extra set of clothing and sturdy shoes for each family member," he noted.

Creating a family communication strategy that outlines safe and well-acquainted-with meeting places can be an effective approach to act quickly when needed. Include pets in the emergency plans and make sure they have identification tags, pet emergency kits with food, water, and any necessary medications.



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For those who have a storm shelter, registering your shelter with the Rogers County Assessor's Office can provide a method to help locate you quickly if you become trapped by debris. To register your storm shelter, call the Rogers County Assessor's Office at 918-923-4795.

Staying alert and informed can lead to staying safe in the event of extreme weather conditions. The National Weather Service in Tulsa actively watches weather conditions and collaborates with local emergency management departments to ensure public safety.

Stokes said obtaining and checking weather radios, such as NOAA weather radio (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), and enabling your cell phone to receive emergency notifications allows for immediate notices.

Another way to keep informed, he said, is to sign up and stay updated with Rogers County Emergency Alerts, providing real-time warnings about severe weather and other emergencies in our area.

A community notification alert system consists of tornado sirens. "These outdoor warning devices are not meant to be solely depended upon when individuals are indoors, as their primary purpose is to alert those who are outside," Stokes said.

Reaching out to your insurance provider to verify that you have sufficient coverage before severe weather events arrive is a wise precautionary step according to Stokes. Keeping all important documents easily accessible in a safe room or stored online is urged.

"This storm acts as a reminder to all of us how quickly severe weather can spin up," Stokes said. "Taking action now can protect your family when severe weather sneaks up. Preparedness can save lives."

Signing up for alerts can be done at (<http://bit.ly/rcemalerts2025>). Or visit the County's website page under Emergency Management at [www.rogerscounty.org/187/Emergency-Management](http://www.rogerscounty.org/187/Emergency-Management). You can also follow Rogers County Emergency Management's Facebook and Instagram.



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