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Turbulent weather spawns twisters, hail and flooding

By Erin Adamson
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Severe thunderstorms pushed through northeast Kansas on Saturday, producing tornadoes and funnel clouds, as well as large hail and flash flooding.

Matt Wolters, meteorologist at the National Weather Service at Philip Billard Municipal Airport in Topeka, said severe weather that hit Shawnee County starting shortly before 9 p.m. consisted of hail, heavy rain and strong winds.

"The highest rain gust here at the office has been about 45 miles per hour," Wolters said. "We just had some 1-inch hail reported here in Shawnee County, near S.W. 13th and Garfield."

Karla Olsen, Westar Energy spokeswoman, said 3,300 Topeka customers were without power at 10:30 p.m. due to the storm. In Lawrence, 300 customers were without power and 500 Emporia customers also were in the dark.

Earlier, tornadoes were reported in surrounding counties.

Weather service meteorologist Mike Akulow said several people witnessed a tornado that struck near Hiawatha in Brown County at about 4 p.m.

Wolters said high winds in Brown County damaged outbuildings.

Video



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[Storms cross N.E. Kansas](#)

"There's been some barns damaged and possibly destroyed in Brown County," he said.

Shortly after 7 p.m., a trained storm watcher reported a tornado near Delia in southern Jackson County, Akulow said.

Damage from a possible tornado near Lake Elbow, northeast of Manhattan in Riley County, was reported at about 6 p.m., Akulow said. He said no one saw the tornado and meteorologists would investigate today whether the damage was caused by a tornado or strong winds.

Funnel clouds, the rotating storm systems that can become tornadoes, were spotted in the early evening near Alma in Wabaunsee County.

A thunderstorm dropped heavy rains on Junction City and Manhattan in Riley County, causing flash flooding. Akulow said there were widespread reports that damaging hail accompanied the flash flooding.

Wind gusts of 60 mph were reported in Pottawatomie County in the evening, Akulow said.

Wolters said 1-inch hail also had been reported near Americus in Lyon County.

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