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NEWS | LOCAL

Southeast Minnesota communities hit hard by Tuesday night storm

The National Weather Service in La Crosse confirmed an EF2 tornado hit Taopi, Minn.



An EF2 tornado ripped through the Mower County town of Taopi on Tuesday, April 12, 2022., night. Families and crews assess and clean up the damage Wednesday, April 13. Andrew Link / Post Bulletin

By Emily Cutts

April 13, 2022 02:57 PM

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TAOPI, Minn. — As the sun rose Wednesday morning, April 13, emergency officials got a better look at storm damage around Southeast Minnesota. Early reports included damage to buildings, grain bins and downed power lines.

"At 10:37 p.m. a Tornado Warning was issued for southeast Mower County," Mower County Sheriff Steve Sandvik wrote in an email Wednesday morning. "Shortly after that warning, 911 calls regarding multiple damaged homes and trapped residents from the Taopi area were received."



LOCAL

Taopi families lose homes in Tuesday night storm

Residents try to recover items from the wreckage caused by winds of more than 110 mph that blasted the region.

April 15, 2022 09:16 AM • By Abby Sharpe

Mower County Sheriff's deputies, along with Adams and LeRoy Fire and others, responded to the calls for help. Two residents trapped in their basement were rescued and taken to Mayo Clinic Health System-Austin for evaluation and treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Areas of the community were searched and evacuated, and shelter was supplied to three families, while others sheltered with family or friends.

Mower County Public Works and local utility companies responded to downed power lines, gas leaks and debris.

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LOCAL

Photos: Tornado aftermath in Taopi, Minnesota

The National Weather Service confirmed an EF2 tornado touched down in Taopi.

April 13, 2022 12:45 PM • By Joe Ahlquist

Storm survey teams will be looking at some of those areas of damage Wednesday morning to get further information on the storm and confirm whether a tornado touched down anywhere in southeastern Minnesota, according to National Weather Service in La Crosse meteorologist Jeff Makowski.

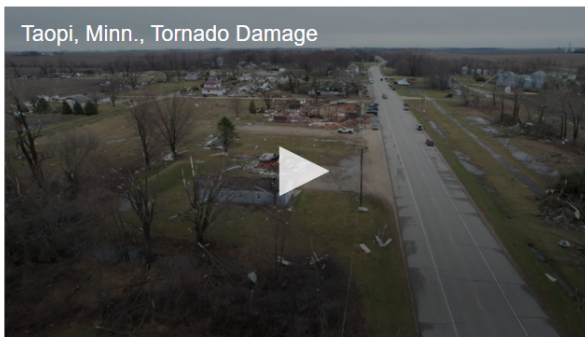
Around 10:50 a.m. Wednesday, the National Weather Service in La Crosse tweeted that meteorologists sent to Taopi found damage indicative of an EF2, which has estimated wind speeds of 111 to 135 mph.



Mower County Emergency Manager Amy Lammey is asking for pictures to be shared to em@co.mower.mn.us for damage assessment in Taopi.

Damage reports were not limited to Taopi. Makowski said damage reports were also received from Spring Valley, as well as from some communities in Winona and Fillmore counties.

Tuesday's storms hit in two parts. Thunderstorms blew through in the mid-to-late afternoon hours, bringing some generally small hail (pea- to quarter-size), according to Makowski.



During the evening hours, more storms moved across the state from west to east and produced strong wind gusts in some areas and heavy swaths of rain in others.

While clean up begins Wednesday morning, there is some good news. The severe weather threat has shifted east of Minnesota. The National Weather Service in La Crosse does note a chance for flooding for the Middle Fork Whitewater River near Whitewater State Park.

Temperatures are forecast to drop off the next few days and a considerable cool down is expected bringing temperatures down from the 50s and 60s of the earlier week down into the 30s and low 40s, according to Makowski.

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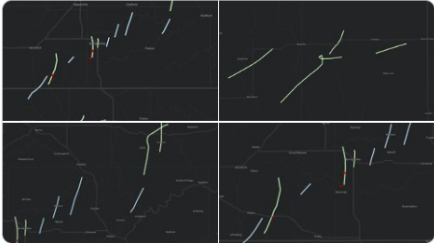
The Adams United Farmers State Bank has set up a fund to provide relief to Taopi residents. The bank is accepting mailed donations at this address:

Adams UFSB
Taopi Relief Fund
PO Box 354
Adams, MN 55909



NWS La Crosse @NWSLaCrosse · Follow

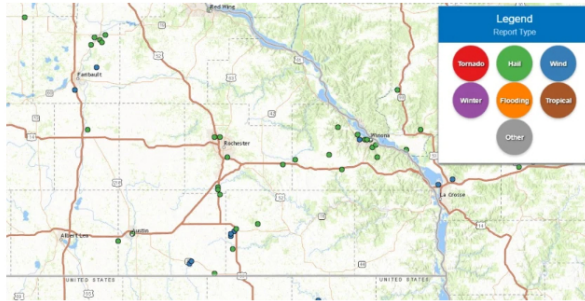
Attached are wide views and close ups of RADAR DERIVED rotation tracks from April 12 in NE IA & SE MN. Light green have damage reports or plausible TDSs. These are NOT tornado tracks. Survey teams will make that determination. Let us know if you have damage reports. **#mnwx #iawx**



3:31 AM · Apr 13, 2022

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By **Emily Cutts**

Emily Cutts is the Post Bulletin's public safety reporter. She joined the Post Bulletin in July 2018 after stints in Vermont and Western Massachusetts.

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