

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Phone: Email: Marilee Johnson Logan County Public Information Coordinator 970.522.0888 ext. 253 <u>pio@logancountyco.gov</u>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Logan County Severe Weather June 2023

12 pm June 23, 2023

Sterling, CO – According to the National Weather Service, the tornado that touched down west of Sterling on Wed., June 21 is classified as an EF1 tornado. The tornado directly hit a house and garage in the 6000 block of County Road 20.5, destroying both and damaging trees at that location, and was determined to be on the ground for about a quarter of a mile.

In contrast, while the former Sykes Enterprise building in Sterling was also destroyed, the damage was determined to be caused by heavy rain and not a tornado or microburst. At the heaviest deluge Wednesday night, Sterling received 4-6 inches of rain in a 35-40 minute period.

Officials here are continuing to access other damage, while keeping eyes on forecasted weather conditions and water levels of the South Platte River. There is a possible risk of severe weather today. Wind, isolated tornadoes and hail are possible.

The South Platte River is expected to crest again sometime around Sunday afternoon or evening for our area. This could cause some localized flooding in the areas of County Road 370 at Sterling, as well as eventually downstream along County Roads 65.7 and 55. In preparation of any flooding situations, there are two more sandbag fill stations set up. One will be at the City Service Center, 102 Sugar Mill Road, and one near the old Road & Bridge Shops on North Division Avenue. Sand and bags will be provided for residents to self-fill. There is also a sandbag station across from the Atwood Sinclair at I-76 and Highway 63.

The south boat ramp at North Sterling State Park reservoir will be closed for the time being due to flooding on the road to the ramp. Boating is still open at the park, with launching at the Elks Boat Ramp.

Highway 6 between Sterling and Atwood was opened today after flood waters from the Pawnee Creek forced closure Thursday, June 22. Some county roads in Logan County are still impacted by water or

debris and may be closed. Willard/Atwood/Merino residents should continue to be cautious on the county roads in their areas due to possible washouts.

In addition, the Northeast Colorado Health Department has information for residents regarding septic tanks and sewer system issues or failures. They can be contacted at 700 Columbine St., in Sterling, or 970-522-3741.

Logan County residents who experience damage to their property as a result of this storm are asked to contact Logan County Office of Emergency Management with their address and summary of their situation so that the damage can be assessed. Information can be submitted by calling 970-520-0991 or emailing caseboltj@logancountyco.gov.

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Logan County Office of Emergency Management - Emergency Management Director Jerry Casebolt 970.520.0991 – <u>caseboltj@logancountyco.gov</u>

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