

From: Schimsa, Rebecca <RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov>
To: Adams, Chaney <ChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov>
Patel, Swati <SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov>
CC: Godfrey, Rob <RobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 12/5/2016 2:23:41 PM
Subject: RE: Simpsonville tornado - The Greenville News

Yes.

Background information:

The National Weather Service confirmed that a F1 tornado touched down in Simpsonville on November 30, 2016. Five injuries were confirmed, and 118 homes have been confirmed to be affected with minor or major damage: 4 homes destroyed; 30 homes sustained 50% or more damage; and 84 homes sustained less than 50% damage.

At this time, emergency management officials do not expect that the damage will rise to the level that would qualify for FEMA assistance, because the event must first qualify for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration, which generally requires destruction of approximately 100 homes destroyed or with 50% or more damage.

However, based on an ongoing assessment of affected individuals' insurance coverage, the event may qualify for a SBA low interest loan program, which generally requires a lower threshold of destruction, 25 homes damaged that are 40% or more un-insured or under-insured. If local and state officials expect the event to qualify for a SBA loan, then the state will request an official joint damage assessment with federal SBA officials. Depending on the results of a joint damage assessment, state officials would recommend that the Governor make a request to the SBA for an official declaration, which if approved would make certain affected individuals eligible to apply for low interest loans.

For more information about the SBA loan process, reports should contact Derrec Becker at EMD.

More information about immediate response operations for this event:

- At approximately 5:30 p.m. on November 30, 2016, a suspected tornado touched down off of 2112 West Georgia Road and Willow Lane in Simpsonville in Greenville County.
- A mobile home park and surrounding area were reported as affected. Initial reports included minor injuries with one transported for hospitalization and damage to multiple structures. An estimated 3,100 power outages were reported by Duke Energy with expected restoration complete by December 2, 2016.
- The American Red Cross opened a shelter at Reedy Fork Baptist Church as well as feeding operations. Crews worked to remove downed trees and other hazards from roadways. Greenville County moved to OPGON 3, initiated search and rescue operations, and planned to conduct aerial operations of the damaged area to supplement ground crews. No state assistance was requested, but EMD deployed a regional emergency manager to the Greenville County EOC. Efforts by law enforcement to identify problems and keep area clear of looters or scammers were initiated as well.
- At approximately 7:30 a.m. on December 1, 2016, local officials reported that no individuals were missing. Greenville County ERT and local firefighters conducted damage assessments and conducted wellness checks in the impacted area. The National Weather Service arrived on scene to assess damages and advise on storm intensity. Early assessments indicated minor to affected habitable damage to most residential structures. Local VOAD representatives were on scene to provide citizens in need with assistance.

From: Adams, Chaney
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 1:09 PM
To: Schimsa, Rebecca; Patel, Swati
Cc: Godfrey, Rob
Subject: Simpsonville tornado - The Greenville News

Do y'all have any info here?

From: Burns, Mike [<mailto:MDBURNS@greenvillenews.com>]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 12:57 PM
To: Adams, Chaney
Subject: Simpsonville tornado - The Greenville News

Hi, Chaney. I'm writing about victims of last week's tornado in Simpsonville, and a woman says she's tried to secure FEMA assistance but has been told that's not possible because the governor hasn't declared that event a disaster.

Can you give me the lowdown there? Is that a consideration? Are there specific requirements in place for such a declaration?

Is there anything related to any of this that I should report?

Thanks a ton for your help.

Michael Burns

The Greenville News
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