

(Neb.)-Storm Damage To Hay Springs School Prompts Cancelled Classes

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 09/02/2013 12:53 PM

(Picture courtesy Susan McCollum)

(Hay Springs)-Storms that rolled through the area on Friday evening wreaked havoc on not only the KBPY broadcast of the Crawford/Edgemont game, but residents in Sheridan and Shannon Counties as well. The storms that caused the damage began building late in the afternoon on Friday, and rolled through areas near Hay Springs and Pine Ridge, leaving a wake of destruction.

The first reports came in to the National Weather Service in Cheyenne of winds nearing 60 miles per hour south of Chadron, but no damage was reported. The next report to Cheyenne indicated golf ball sized hail north west of Hay Springs, which pelted the area for approximately 15 to 20 minutes, resulting in accumulations of 7 inches of hail. The KBPY transmitter, which is located north west of Hay Springs, was without power for several hours as a result of the storm.

Although only a broken windshield was reported to the National Weather Service, residents in town were sharing stories of broken windows on homes and vehicles, downed trees, and damage to the school in town. On the web page for the school, www.hshawks.com, students and staff are advised that, "Due to damage to the school from the storm on August 30, 2013, school will be cancelled," on Tuesday, September 3.

Reports to the National Weather Service in Rapid City indicated storms at approximately the same time were causing damage on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Trees were reported down at the hospital in Pine Ridge at approximately 6 pm, and shortly after, downed power lines were reported, as well as damage to Wolf Creek School. The Associated Press indicated officials are exploring the possibility of a tornado, although there is no official word on that from the National Weather Service.

Pictures taken by Hay Springs residents have been sent in to Chadrad.com, and those will be posted as soon as possible. If anyone has any pictures of storm damage, those can be sent to kcsr@chadrad.com.

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