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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DULUTH MN
305 PM CDT SAT JUL 2 2011

...DAMAGE ASSESSMENT RESULTS FROM BURNETT COUNTY...
...DAMAGE FROM SOLON SPRINGS STILL HAS YET TO BE SURVEYED...

A NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE STORM SURVEY TEAM WAS DISPATCHED TODAY TO INVESTIGATE WIDESPREAD REPORTS OF DAMAGE ACROSS BURNETT... WASHBURN... AND SOUTHERN DOUGLAS COUNTIES.

IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THE DAMAGE IN BURNETT COUNTY WAS THE RESULT OF WIDESPREAD STRAIGHT LINE WINDS. THESE RESULTS ARE A COMBINATION OF GROUND SURVEYS BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TEAM AND AERIAL SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS.

ACROSS THE ENTIRE COUNTY...DAMAGE WAS GENERALLY ALL BLOWN DOWN FACING A NORTHEAST OR EAST DIRECTION. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH NON-TORNADIC WINDS.

A LARGE PORTION OF BURNETT COUNTY LIKELY RECEIVED 60 TO 80 MPH WIND GUSTS AS THE LINE OF STORMS MOVED THROUGH SHORTLY AFTER 7 PM CDT ON JULY 1ST. ALL COMMUNITIES SUSTAINED AT LEAST SOME SORT OF TREE DAMAGE.

THERE WERE ALSO SEVERAL CORRIDORS OF VERY INTENSE DAMAGE RELATED TO SIGNIFICANT DOWNBURSTS. THIS INCLUDED THE AREA NEAR GRANTSBURG... JUST WEST AND NORTH OF DANBURY... AND NEAR WEBSTER. WINDS IN THE STRONGEST DOWNBURSTS WERE VERY LIKELY IN EXCESS OF 100 MPH. THESE WIND SPEED ESTIMATES ARE BASED ON PRIMARILY SOFTWOOD TREE DAMAGE INDICATORS. ENTIRE STANDS OF HEALTHY PINE TREES...SOME MANY ACRES IN SIZE AND INCLUDING THOUSANDS OF TREES...WERE COMPLETELY LEVELED WITH MOST OF THE TRUNKS SNAPPED OFF.

ONE FATALITY OCCURRED IN BURNETT COUNTY DUE TO FALLING TREES AT A CAMPGROUND. LOCAL OFFICIALS ALSO CONFIRMED 39 INJURIES...WITH MOST OF THOSE PEOPLE HAVING BEEN QUICKLY TREATED AND RELEASED.

BURNETT COUNTY WAS UNDER SEVERAL SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS AS THE LINE OF STORMS MOVED THROUGH...WITH THE FIRST WARNING ISSUED AT 635 PM CDT. THE FIRST REPORT OF DAMAGE WAS RECEIVED FROM NEAR GRANTSBURG AT APPROXIMATELY 714 PM CDT.

A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH WAS IN EFFECT FOR BURNETT COUNTY BETWEEN 210 PM CDT AND 1000 PM CDT.

THIS LINE OF STORMS INITIALLY FORMED IN EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA... TRACKED THROUGH CENTRAL MINNESOTA... THROUGH NORTHWEST WISCONSIN... AND INTO WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR. IT PRODUCED WIDESPREAD...SEVERE DAMAGING WINDS ALONG A ROUGHLY 400 MILE LONG STRETCH.

THE SURVEY TEAM HAS YET TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE FROM THE SOLON SPRINGS

AREA. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE CONCERNING THAT DAMAGE
EITHER LATER THIS EVENING OR ON SUNDAY.

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