Tornado Death Toll Reaches 89; 61 Of Them In Pennsylvania

By GEORGE MILLER
and ROY SENGER
of the Erie Daily Times

The death toll continued to mount Saturday as more victims were found in the aftermath of tornadoes that ripped through the Tri-State area and Ontoria, causing an estimated $14 million in property damage in Erie County alone.

The total number of deaths on Saturday was 61. Of them, 61 of them in Pennsylvania. Damage estimates from all areas hit were expected to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Twelve people were confirmed dead in Erie County.

A state of emergency was declared in a 10-county area of Pennsylvania, including Erie County, and rescue workers continued to sift through the rubble looking for missing persons.

In Erie County, the death toll remained at 12 Saturday evening. State police at Girard were not aware of any people still missing at that time. Over 4,000 people were still hospitalized in the country's hospitals.

Nicholas Sipinske, director of the county's Emergency Management program, said 19 people, one in the Cranberry area, had been missing earlier Saturday. Sipinske estimated property damage at $13 million in the Albion-Cranberry area and another $500,000 in the Curry area.

The emergency management director, who had toured the area by helicopter Saturday morning, said 120 homes were destroyed and another 260 damaged.

By JEFF PINKO
Morning News Staff Reporter

Gov. Dick Thornburgh — at times appearing near tears after seeing first-hand the destruction in storm-ravaged Albion after Saturday afternoon — pledged the "full support" of the Commonwealth to the victims of Pennsylvania's worst tornado disaster.

The destruction I saw from the air is just unbelievable," he said after his Pennsylvania National Guard helicopter landed near Northwestern Junior High School Saturday afternoon.

He earlier made stops in other counties — including Crawford County — where tornado damage was heavy.

"I feel an awful feeling of helplessness at seeing the amount of destruction, the horrible devastation. It can't be adequately described or put into words," he said.

The junior high school, Thornburgh visited in the one of several temporary emergency command posts set up in the Albion-Cranberry area to aid victims after three killer tornadoes cut a path of destruction across three states and the Canadian province of Ontario Friday evening.

The twisters killed more than 80 persons — 12 of them from the A

Thornburgh also spoke with White House staff members via a special telephone line from Albion Saturday.

He told them his application for emergency federal relief will be at the White House for President Reagan's approval by Sunday morning.

"White House Chief of Staff Don Regan and White House staff special assistant to the President for intergovernmental affairs, have assured me the application will get on the fast track," Thornburgh said.

Later Saturday, the governor's press office notified news agencies that Thornburgh sent to President Reagan a letter requesting a "major disaster" declaration for 15 Pennsylvania counties.

"Although damage assessment information has not been completely assembled at this point, data thus far compiled establishes that this incident of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary," the letter says.

Federal relief means homeowners, many of them under-insured and some without insurance at all, qualify for emergency, low-interest loans or...
The Scene Was Unbelievable

By PAT HOWARD
Of the Erie Daily Times

Christine Luthe, clutching a soiled broken doll, sits weeping on a long shard of sheet metal.

The metal rests on splintered wood and porcelain and glass that once were her family’s home. She has less reason to weep than some. Her family is safe. But she’s been through too much.

Christine can only talk in fits and starts, but her father, Bill Bolte, rattles off her story anxiously as if telling it will make him accept, believe. He shifts nervously from one muddy work boot to the other as he speaks, occasionally touching the shoulder of his listener.

Christine and her 18-month-old daughter were in their mobile home, their Trailer Park in Cranberry when Christine heard the twister coming.

“She grabbed her baby and ran across here for the woods,” Bolte says, pointing toward the ridge where her home had rested. “Finally the staff falling out of the air knocked her down. And then it was gone. All that’s left of where her trailer sat is a pair of stairs,” he says, abnormally kicking at the wreckage. “It used to be up on that ridge. This new house is 150 feet away from where it sat.”

Bolte walks back toward the trees that had sheltered his daughter. His own trailer lies beyond the trees farther up the ridge. He stares into the trees for a moment, then turns again.

See SCENE, Page 3A

Erieites Open Their Hearts In Relief Effort

By JERRY TRAMBLEY
Times-News Staff Writer

The people of Erie County and the surrounding area opened their homes, their hearts, their pocketbooks, their closets and just about everything they had Saturday to help the victims of the tornadoes that left a dozen dead and hundreds injured and homeless in western and southern Erie County Friday.

The phone lines at the Times Publishing Company’s Tornado Relief Central opened at 7 a.m. Saturday and the earliest phone volunteers, Cindee Behrendt, Bonnie Santor, Charlotte Yonkoski and Lili Pinter, said those phones started ringing immediately.

As a result of the massive one-day effort, the Times tornado relief effort was suspended Saturday night until emergency agencies indicate further need for clothing and food.

Frank Mead, Times Publishing Company treasurer and business manager, By Saturday afternoon, the phones were still ringing as people called in to offer rooms in their homes for victims or said they had a vacant apartment or flat or even a camper they weren’t using that victims from Albion or Cranberry were welcome to use while they needed it.

Even as volunteers were taking down the names and addresses of those who offered homes for the homeless, hundreds of donors were lining up along West 12th and along Sassafras to drop off food, clothing, toys and money for the use of tornado victims.

By noon Saturday, the Salvation Army had already loaded three 18-foot vans with mattresses, bedding, shoes and assorted clothes for transfer to the west county and the three truckloads did not even seem to make a dent in the piles of donated items that filled an area of the parking lot about 80 feet long and 80 feet wide.

The depth of the tragedy could, perhaps, be measured in some way by the outpouring of generosity. People were touched by the terrible scenes of destruction they saw on television and in the newspaper and they wanted to help.

They came to the Times building Saturday and they called the Red Cross and other relief agencies and they brought money, clothes, food and whatever else they thought could do some good for their neighbors whose homes had been destroyed by the storm.

“This is really the silver lining, so to speak, in the tragedy,” said Dr. William Kowalski, a clinical psychologist with a background in disasters and crisis situations. “A lot of people have to do something and we’re just doing our best.”

Kowalski said that for various people reasons people are touched by such tragedy, especially so close to home, and they want to help their fellow man.

“We have all been victimized because it’s so close to us. But we don’t have a hospital to go to because nobody in our immediate family has been injured and we don’t have fire engines to call because our house didn’t burn down, but we still have a need for immediate action,” Kowalski said. “When we have strong emotions, we need to take action and if we don’t take action, we’re going to feel unfinished.”

Within a few hours Saturday morning, there was more than $1,500 in cash and checks donated by those who wanted to help. Red cross staffer Betty Rechens said the gifts ranged from a check for $250 to a couple of rolls of pennies brought in by some youngsters who thought the victims needed the pennies more than they did. She also said Red Cross workers were stationed at the Chapter House on West 6th and donations were pouring into there, as well.

As people drove into the Times parking lot to drop off the clothes and other items, people drove into the Times parking lot to drop off the clothes and other items, as well.

See RELIEF EFFORT, Page 11A

Food, Clothing No Longer Accepted

Due to the overwhelming response Saturday, Tornado Relief Central at the Times Publishing Co. will no longer accept food and clothing.

However, calls of assistance for housing and information will be accepted Sunday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. at 456-8531.

Relief officials announced that the Albion and Cranberry areas have been saturated with food and clothing.

The project’s resumption with respect to food and clothing will be announced at a later date.

11 SUPPLEMENTS

Special sections from JCPenny's, Eckerd's, Kmarts, Sherrin Williams, Sears, Thrift Drug, Horne's Super, Children's Palace, Peoples Drug and Loblaw's are included in today's Times-News. If any are missing, please call your circulator or Circulation Customer Service at 455-4691.

Pennsylvania Deaths

Following is a list of the known dead from Pennsylvania, with nearby counties listed first. The information on deaths for Forest and McKean counties was released by state police from the Punxsutawney barracks. Phase communications to state police stations in Tioga and Kane remain out of service.

ERIE: Lydia Taylor, age unknown, RD 1, Albion; Jodi Lynn Snyder, 24, of Cranberry; Stanley Kireta, age unknown, and Frances Kireta, age unknown, both of 23 South Water St., Albion; Luke Stahlhine, 4, 219 East Pearl, Albion; Norman Elliott, age unknown, of Cranberry; Bill Revak, 64, RD 2, West Road, Albion, LenaKeith, age unknown, 93 South Main, Albion; Ralph Hecker, 36, of Cranberry; Debra Sherman, 24, RD 1, Knapp Road, Albion; Helen Sabovik, age unknown, 53 Walnut St., Albion; and Marie Eagles, age unknown, 57 Walnut, Albion.

CRAWFORD: Iris Metzling, 73, John William Moore, 41, and Alfred Longo Sr., 44, all of RD 1, Cochranton area, Ross Allen, 74, of Linesville, in Atlantic; Cindy Lou Godwin, 23, Andrew Byler, 77, Frank Talbot, 81, his wife, Wanda May Talbot, 81, and Daria Ann Rigby, 24, in Centerville, Steven Priknosis, 62, and Oscar Gray, no age given.

VENANGO COUNTY: Charles B. Best, 47, Judy Best, 36, Brock Best, 15, all of RD 1, Cooperstown; Phyllis Dyeter, 68, RD 1, Utica; Paul J. Bergin, 15, RD 3, Franklin; Beverly Westfall, 26; Cherrytree, and Pamela Westfall, 10 months, Cherrytree.

MERCER COUNTY: Marion Barnes, 65, Mercer; Michael Kurpe, 36, 26, RD 1, Milan. See PA. DEATHS, Page 2A

Index

Bridge 12A Home Improvements 3E
Business Today 1D Jack Anderson 3B
Classified 3-14E, 1-10F Living 1-12C
Consumer Bag 2B Lottery 13A
Editorials 2B Nileswatchman 12D
Ed Mathews 2E Obituaries 2E
Ed Wellespie 1-9D Sports 2E
Financial 10-13B Theaters 12-13D
Frying Pan 10D Travel & Resorts 10-11D

Deaths

COFFMAN, Eugene F.
PARVER, H. P. (Park)
RAAG, Edward
HANCOK, John T., Sr.
HECKER, Ralph E.
HERRMANN, Raymond F.
KRIET, Stanley J.
MANGONI, Enelio D.
MCCLARY, Anne N.
NILAND, James J.

PACHELL, Julia Elizabeth (Allen)
REVAK, William R.
RIESTHA, James M.
SABOVIK, Helen
SHERRIN, Debra Jane
SNYDER, Jodi (Terrill)
STEADMAN, Rachel (Williams)
TAYLOR, Lydia M. (Snyder)
WALLING, William L.
DEATH TOLL

(Continued from Page 1A)

or 114 were damaged as well as busi-
nesses and other structures in the
vicinity. The Aliens, home of the
tornado, was sealed off and guard-
ed by about 125 members of the Na-
tional Guard, who were called in Fri-
day night after County Executive Judy
Lynch and County Council member Robert Walker and Tracy
Brewer surveyed the damage.
The area was opened to Aliens res-
idents for a couple of hours Saturday
and then sealed off again as evening
approached, state police said.
Safeguarded, estimated 266 volunteers
were involved in rescue and clean-up
efforts.
He said it wouldn't be possible to esti-
mate that 300 to 400 families
were left without homes.
Pennsylvania Electric Co. spokesman
John Polusky reported that about 3,700 customers in the utility's
Northwestern Division, primarily in
the Aliens, Cranberry and Peters
areas, were without electricity im-
mediately after the storm.
By 6:30 p.m. Friday, he said, all but
1,500 were back in service that could
receive service. All but 140 were re-
stored Saturday afternoon and those
two were to have service within two
hours.
In the Erie area, only scattered outages were reported, and all cus-
tomers were back in service by 11
p.m., Petrosky said.
Every available Pennsylvena power
person was called into work and open
the night in the effort to restore service, he said.
In the Aliens area, he said, "We
just started over from scratch in
that particular area."
Meanwhile, in the Corry, Union
City, Centerville and Wallsburg
areas, about 300 homes were reported
without electricity, but services in
most was restored in a short time,
said Jerry Clayton, Pennsyl-
vania Power spokesman.
He said about 12 homes in the
Centerville area were still without
power Saturday evening.
He thanked the police, volunteer firefights and National Guard, es-
speciality in controlling traffic.
At times, he said, neighbors hand-
red repair efforts. "We had so many
sightseers it was like the New York
Thruway," he said.
Thomas Bachtel, director of emer-
gency services for the Erie Chapter
of the Red Cross, said the relief effort
will be taken over by higher-ranking
Red Cross officials because of the
magnitude of the problem.
He said a team headed by James
said he thought it a lot more money,
a lot more assistance.
He said relief efforts will be direct-
ed from the Easton operations office
in Aliens, Va.
Meanwhile, Bachtel reported about
409 people were at the Aliens emer-
gency center, located in the North-
western Middle School gym, at the
night. Others stayed with friends
and relatives.
"That's one thing about a small
town," said Aliens council president
George Dublin. "There is always
enough friends and relatives in town
who can take people in who lost their
home."
Bachtel said said other two cen-
ters, one in Cranberry and the other
at Tech Memorial High School in
Erie were open, but were little used.
He said seven homes in the Union
City-Wallsburg area were also dam-
aged, but the tornado skipped the
Edenboro and Waterford areas.
Dublin said Saturday that it was
too early to think about rebuilding.
"Right now all we're dealing with is a
crisis," he said. "If we can get the streets cleaned up and the
sidewalks cleared, then we'll get the
be able to let people back to their
homes to see what they can find."
Dublin said there was not a single
confirmed report of losing in Aliens.
The Northwestern Middle School
will be closed Monday and Super-
tendent Andrew Hills says he will ask
the state Department of Education to
keep schools closed all week.
Baccalaureate ceremonies sched-
uled Monday have been canceled.
The Red Cross has been using the
middle school gym as a disaster cen-
ter and the National Guard is being
housed at the high school gym.
"It's our obligation to help
and do all we can," Hicks said.
Meanwhile in Cranberry, Fire
Chief Prettie Crane said the last vic-
tims were pulled from a trailer just
after 9 p.m. Friday and that he did not
believe any others were still missing.
We searched and searched and re-
saved and from the information
we gathered, everybody who was sup-
poted to be there accounted for," he
said.
Volunteers were also sent door-to-
door in Cranberry notifying resi-
dents about possible water contami-
nation. Residents in the Cranberry-
Aliens area were asked to boil their
drinking water.
Meanwhile, McKean residents re-
ported finding debris in their neigh-
borhoods from Aliens.
Hospital officials said there were

PA. DEATHS

(Continued from Page 1A)

Sharon; Stanley David; Koncar, 36; Farrell, Gladys Jackson, 72; Walt-
land; Adam Laverty, 4; Farrell, Robert Reynolds, 21; Wheland; Rose
Marie Leone, 75; Mansfield, Ohio.
FOREST COUNTY: Nancy Coner, 43; Star Route, RD 2, Tintones;
Lucila Zundel, 80; Star Route, RD 2, Tintones; Eunice Shaffer, 76;
Wherland; RD 2, Tintones; Volist Shaffer, 6; Wherland; RD 2, Tintones;
Ettie Berlin, 60; RD 2, Tintones; Betty Ruggeri, 90, of Sheffield, Pa., who
was staying in the Tintones area.
MCKEAN COUNTY: Travis Johnson, 17, RD 1, Kane; Robert Thrash,
aged unknown, East Kane; and Dawn Anderkle, 17, East Kane.
At least five Pennsylvanians were killed in Ohio. See listing, Page 10A.
BEAVER COUNTY: Gladyce Bremen, 67; Beaver Falls, Diana Lynn
Flicker, 17; Elkins, Carl Mosbey, 67, Economy.
BUTLER COUNTY: Dennis John Armstrong, 18 months, Saxonburg.

Sunsabell's Stacks.
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Sunday
June 16th

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THE SCENE WAS UNBELIEVABLE

(Continued from Page 1A)

to face the mud and rain.

The first thing she saw when she came out of those woods was a dead boy with no arm," he continues. "She said she didn't know his arm was off and she reached down to lurch him and ask him if he was all right. But he was dead. That's why she's so broken up. How much can you take?"

He passes his lips hard together and shakes his head as he pulls his son-in-law's hunting rifle from the wrackage.

"Hey, Scott. Here's your rifle," he yells across the field to Scott Luthe, his daughter's husband. "Here, grab that." Luthe shrugs back. After handing over the rifle, Bullis turns again toward his listener:

"It's unreal. It's unreal. But we're living. A lot of folks weren't as lucky as us.

Saturday it does seem unreal. On Route 10 heading towards Cranemill, the sky is clear, the sun is shining and all seems right with the world. The forest lining the road is thick and lush, as if it hasn't been disturbed in 50 years. But just around the corner, as if God closed his eye and pointed his finger arbitrarily in a map, the countryside has been turned upside down.

Huge trees, hit so suddenly by a force so awesome, have been snapped in half, leaving their roots in the ground. The towns look like bomb-cast villages in World War II Germany, except there are no ruins, no farms. Some homes are shattered as explosives have been detonated within. Others just lean and croak and might simply seem neglected if it wasn't for the destruction all around and if one didn't know they had been soled, well kept homes only the evening before.

The sunny, clear morning skies seem a malicious afterthought of nature, a malevolent grin after the terror. They make everything too clear, too real. The pleasant breeze contrasts sharply with the dark, tormented emotions of people whose homes have been wiped from the face of the earth; of people who are trying to survive the world day of their lives.

By early morning the National Guard has arrived in Alison, stringing barbed wire across the entrances to town to discourage looters and sightseers. The guardsmen, many of whom seem like kids, patrol the streets with large wooden nightsticks. Some act more like tourists than soldiers, brandishing cameras, taking pictures after picture while their jaws hang slack with wonder at the devastation.

Robert Pavlov's Simono service station on East State is gutted, the pumps crushed. Ironically a sign on the wall reads, "Best Rooms Out Of Order." The Alison Family Practice medical building is in similar condition. Back issues of popular magazines -- Newsweek, Highlights for Children -- litter the floor of what was the waiting room. A cleaner volunteer shuffling through the debris, head down, suddenly stops and reaches down slowly with his right hand. He picks up a copy of the Bible; torn from its cover then wipes it off with his hands.

"That's the good news," he says dolefully.

At the St. Lawrence Catholic Church on East State, the roof over the foyers is gone. Inside, underneath a jagged hole in the polished wooden reed, a statue of the Virgin Mary stands in a ray of sunshine, undamaged. While roofer materials are scattered about the base of the statue, the flowers surrounding it and the light curtain behind it seem fresh, clean, untouched.

In the foyer, ransacked and hated foodstuffs are mixed with ruined sandwiches and plaster dust in a white barrel. On the outside of the barrel is a plea to parisioners for contributions to the needy.

"We won't have to look for now, will we?" a parishioner says, checking humorlessly.

At many of the homes, family members spend the day picking odds and ends -- pictures, clothing from the wreckage. Others homes are dotted with tattered curtains fluttering through black, hollow window openings.

In the area of the worst damage in Alison, between State and Pearl streets, a passerby stops and twirls slowly around.

"It looks like Manhattan," he says, remembering his days as a young man in conquered, devastated Germany. "It looks just like Manhattan.

In Atlantic, a small town south of Cranemill, the Crawfords, a Mercer county border town, is no worse but is more striking.

The town is gone. The Atlantic Congregational Church is the only building not damaged beyond repair. What is left of the town sits on a rise overlooking a valley. A swath of devastation over 200 yards wide can be clearly seen stretching through the valley.

What was a trailer park just west of town is now a junkyard. People live there, and those remaining just poke through the rubble, knowing there's nothing worth saving. Huge pieces of the mobile homes hang in the tree branches across the road, over 100 yards north of the trailer court.

A Bucky man, dressed in sport shirt and jeans, walks slowly along the road staring at where the trailer park was. In a low voice, apparently for the lack of anything else to say, he asks the obvious.

"What in the hell happened here?"

What's left, of course, is people.

A steady stream of Alison residents walk along the south curb of State Street, slowly surveying what yesterday was their town. Many stare numbly, sometimes stumbling over debris in the street. One woman walks with her hand clamped to her mouth as if to prevent herself from retching.

They stop at individual homes, looking for clues to the fates of friends or relatives. Some homes have signs in the windows -- "Steve, The Smiths Are All Right." "People Get Out" -- others are dark and silent.

Groups form sporadically in the streets, asking the same questions: "Did you hear about John?" "Where were you when it hit?" "Has anybody seen my cousin?"

But they already begun to come in to grips with the fact that what couldn't happen to them has happened to them. And they begin to lose themselves in doing something, anything, to take the first step on the road back.
Eleven Dead In Crawford County

By PAUL GILKES
Times-News Meadville Bureau

A tornado that took 11 lives, injured 78 and caused an estimated $100,000 in damage to homes and property in Crawford County has been declared a "tornado of historic proportions," according to Crawford County Emergency Management Director Donald H. Thomas.

The tornado, which struck at about 7:45 p.m. Saturday, was described as being about 100 feet wide, with winds of up to 150 mph. It caused extensive damage, destroying 11 homes and damaging 78.

One woman was killed in Linesville, another in New Alexandria, and a third in Meadville. Ten others were injured, nine of them seriously.

The tornado appeared to be heading southeast from Linesville, and hit only those areas that were directly in its path.

Gov. Dick Thornburgh said he was pleased with the response of local officials to the disaster.

"This is a terrible tragedy," he said. "We are doing everything we can to help the victims and their families."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has been notified, and will provide assistance to the victims.

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Forest County Still Assessing Damages

By JOHN BARTLETT
Times-Mail Tionesta Bureau

The tornado that struck Forest County last Saturday was a "devastating" event, according to Forest County Emergency Management Director James M. Potter.

"We were lucky to have no deaths," he said. "But there was extensive damage, and many people are without power."

Potter said the county is still assessing the damage, and will continue to do so over the next few days.

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GOVERNOR COMFORTS TORMIDATE VICTIMS

Gov. Dick Thornburgh (center) tries to comfort Mrs. Floyd (Alice) Valentine (white hair) Saturday afternoon in Almon Valley. Some of the 11 people who died in the tornado were members of the Valentine family.

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FOREST COUNTY STILL ASSESSING DAMAGES

Forest County Emergency Management Director James M. Potter said the tornado was a "devastating" event.

"We were lucky to have no deaths," he said. "But there was extensive damage, and many people are without power."

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TIMES-NEWS Sunday, June 2, 1985

VENango County Damage $5.5

By JOHN BARTLETT
Times-News Tionesta Bureau

VENANGO COUNTY — The Venango County Emergency Management Agency said today that the total damage caused by the tornadoes that hit the county Friday are estimated at $5.5 million.

"This is a terrible disaster," said County Commissioner John Wymon. "We expect the total damage to be in the range of $10 million."

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FRANKLIN — Damage in Venango County is estimated to have exceeded $5.5 million, according to the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency.

"We expect the total damage to be in the range of $10 million," said County Commissioner John Wymon. "We are working to estimate the damage as soon as possible."
Aerial and ground searches were made Saturday to look for missing persons, but all residents had been accounted for, Thomas said. Emergency efforts were being directed from the Atlantic Congregational Church, the only structure in the community left standing.

The Monell contingent of the Pennsylvania National Guard was brought in to help in salvage operations, keep curiosity-seekers out and prevent looting. Lt. Mark Bonta of the guard unit said there was some problem with looting.

John Kishler, county PennDOT superintendent, said PennDOT crews were working around the county, removing trees and debris to clear the road.
Venango County Damage May Top $5.5 Million

By JOHN BARTLET
Times-News Tri-City Bureau
And
By JIM CARROLL
Times-News Tri-City Bureau
FRANKLIN -- Damages in the Venango County communities hit by tornados Friday are expected to top $5.5 million, while the death toll remained at seven Venango County residents and climbed to seven in neighboring Forest County. (See Related Story).

Preliminary estimates of damage by Venango County emergency management officials included $1,850,000 in Canal Township, $600,000 in Cherrytree Township, one million in Jackson Township, two million in Oakland Township, and $235,000 in Scrubgrass Township.

"That totals $5.5 million. It's the closest we can get right now," said John Woloszyn of the county emergency management agency. "Actually we expect it to be more than that. Those are only preliminary estimates. When actual figures have come in they may have been higher than estimates, so it will probably be more than $5.5 million."

Tim Dunkle, EMA director, said at least 60 residences were destroyed and dozens of others heavily damaged.

The preliminary damage assessment came as county officials and residents began to take stock following the tornados that swept through the county shortly after 6 p.m. Friday.

Continuing shock and trauma tempered by a sense of relief were felt by many who had friends or relatives who lived near the devastated areas.

In the Cherrytree area, rescuers had little difficulty finding where the tornado had struck. McCormick's Trailer Court, located along Route 417, was virtually gone. Eleven trailers and two houses were located at the site and all that is left is a field of debris. In many cases the only evidence that a trailer occupied a site was a twisted metal frame surrounded by scattered household effects, clothing and scraps of sheet metal.

Leaking propane gas tanks, their valves snapped off, delayed access to the site.

The first residents to return Saturday were Jeff and Cathy Hubbard. Their's was the only trailer that still bore any resemblance to a mobile home. Hubbard, his broken ribs bandaged, and his wife started the task of gathering what household effects they could salvage. His father, John Hubbard of Franklin, surveyed the scene.

"This is unbelievable, isn't it? You read and hear about things like this happening in other places but you don't think it could happen here," he said as he pointed to the now vacant sites where the trailers and homes were located.

One of the first to see the tornados in Venango County was Cooperstown Assistant Fire Chief Ed Sanner who spotted one along Lake Road, just north of Cooperstown.

"I could see the top of it coming. I saw it coming down by the creek -- a black funnel cloud. And then all hell..."
the home and its contents insured, because the insurer, which would not issue her premium check because the payment was late. She said an agent from insurance company came to the house Saturday morning and she never had received the premium check.

Fire Chief Hugh Shields, in Atlantic, was getting five fire trucks from the town's fire stations, including four in Atlantic and one in North Atlantic. They were responding to a report of a fire at the home of a woman who had been evicted by the landlord.

A county-wide evacuation was underway, according to the county's emergency management office. The county had issued a level 1 evacuation advisory, meaning residents should be prepared to evacuate if necessary.

Residents were being asked to evacuate their homes, and the county was mobilizing additional resources, including water trucks and sandbags, to assist in the evacuation. The county was also coordinating with other local agencies to provide assistance to affected residents.

Fire Chief Shields said the fire was likely caused by a lightning strike. The county has experienced several lightning strikes over the past few days, and residents are being encouraged to stay alert for any signs of danger.

In other news, the county is preparing to welcome a new resident: a new fire station is being constructed in the town of North Atlantic. The station is expected to be completed later this year, and will provide improved response times for residents in the area.

The county is also working on a plan to upgrade its emergency communication system, which will allow for better coordination between different agencies during emergencies.

The county is also seeking input from residents on a new community planning initiative. The initiative will focus on improving the quality of life for residents, and will involve input from community members to help shape the future of the county.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the planning process, and to provide feedback on the initiatives being considered. The county will be holding community meetings in the near future to discuss the planning process and gather input from residents.

In addition, the county is working on a plan to improve the county's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and other public works projects. The county is seeking input from residents on the priorities for these projects, and will be holding community meetings to discuss the plan and gather input from residents.

The county is also working on a plan to improve the county's economic development, including job creation and business retention efforts. The county is seeking input from residents on the priorities for these efforts, and will be holding community meetings to discuss the plan and gather input from residents.

The county is also working on a plan to improve the county's quality of life, including water and sewer infrastructure, parks and recreation, and other amenities. The county is seeking input from residents on the priorities for these efforts, and will be holding community meetings to discuss the plan and gather input from residents.

The county is also working on a plan to improve the county's health and safety, including public health, safety, and emergency management efforts. The county is seeking input from residents on the priorities for these efforts, and will be holding community meetings to discuss the plan and gather input from residents.

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A Penolec crew member checks out electric lines in Albion Saturday following in the aftermath of the tornado that hit the western Erie County community Friday night. The devastation can be seen from his high perch. At least 12 persons were confirmed dead in the Albion-Cranesville area. (Times-News photo by Joe Comstock.)

Three members of the National Guard contingent patrol the streets of Albion, one of the hardest-hit communities by the tornado. (Photo by Roy Seaca.)

Bob Goeld looks over what's left of his home on E. State St. in Albion Saturday afternoon.
A shocked woman looks for her possessions after a tornado leveled everything in Kennedy's Trailer Park in Cranberry on Friday.

A body is removed from a shattered house in Albion on Friday. A man and his wife both died in the house.

COOPERSTOWN — Mrs. Dorothy McCall, 48, of RD 1, Cooperstown, Venango County, was not home Friday evening when the tornado destroyed her home north of here. But when she returned home late that night and saw the structure, which had been blown off of its foundation, suffered a stroke according to her sons, who are pictured.
On Route 417 between Titusville and Franklin, half a TV satellite dish stands next to a house demolished by a tornado that tore through on Friday. Trees were uprooted, and those that remained standing were festooned with debris.

COOPERSTOWN — "My God, where is my baby," is what Mrs. Alan Zinz of RD 1, Cooperstown, said after she realized her two-year-old son, Matthew, was missing after the killer tornado struck and demolished their double-wide mobile home north of here early Friday night. Her husband, who is poisoning to the remains of their home, said his wife, Betty, grabbed their two sons, Matthew and Adam, 5, and ran to the rear of the home near their patio when she realized what was happening. He said a huge tree from the yard next door came flying into their property. "At that point she threw herself down on top of the boys and the tornado struck," Zinz explained. "It lasted for about 20 minutes and then it was over, but when she got up Matthew was missing. She prayed to God and then called out 'where is my baby'" a moment later Matthew got up from a little indentation in the ground and said 'Here I am Mommy.' And he didn't have a stitch of clothes on. The three of them held a tearful reunion." Zinz explained they were treated at the Franklin Regional Medical Center and later released. Mrs. Zinz has worked there for 15 years as a licensed practical nurse. Zinz, who works at Franklin Steel, said they lost everything in the tornado. He said the one mobile home was 12 by 70 feet and the other 12 by 45 feet and they were connected. He added that he did not have insurance, but he does plan to rebuild on the lot.

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