What tornado spared, water got

By Bryan Lee

NEW HARTFORD — Residents evacuated Monday in flood-prone New Hartford, barely two weeks after an I-89 corridor ripped through the Rutland County town, killing two residents.

“Everyone was amazed by the tornado but hit by the flood,” which ripped out of control Friday afternoon when rains washed over the area, Rutland County Sheriff Jason Johnson said. “We had over 10 inches of rain in 24 hours.”

“I know of maybe four homes in the area that weren’t flooded,” said Fire Chief Brad Stimpson, who spent Sunday night on the floodwater-scorched fried

Most of the town’s 690 residents chose to evacuate their homes on Sunday afternoon, although at least 14 residents waited until they had to be rescued by boat, Sheriff Johnson said.

“After the wind blew, I had to evacuate over 100 homes,” he said. “I had to evacuate over 100 homes.”

By the end of Monday, about 30 homes were still standing in the area.

The town, once a Century-old mining town, was evacuated in a matter of minutes, and many homes were left standing in the rain, which had flooded most of the town.

Residents staying homes on Normandy Drive in Iowa City at flood-water levels continue to rise along the Iowa River on Monday. Water was within 20 feet of many normally homes Monday.

Cedar Rapids: Enters ‘unexplored’ territory

By Nick Smith

CEDAR RAPIDS — Public Works Director Dave Elgin said Monday afternoon was flood day for City residents in the east part of the city. Elgin said the river reached just above 21 feet in Cedar Rapids.

Residents are being advised to have a plan for evacuation and to be prepared for flooding.

The city’s multipurpose flood action plan is based on lessons learned from the 1993 event and from earlier floods since, including one in late April in which the river reached just above 12 feet in Cedar Rapids.

New lessons are going to be learned this time, Elgin said. The predicted 21.5-foot crest is more than 2 feet above the 1993 crest and it tops the record river level of 29.5 feet, which is expected to happen in 2019 and 2046.

City officials aren’t setting in

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City officials aren’t setting in
Flood-prone UI adjusting as classes start today

By Blake Hult

Flood-prone University of Iowa officials are reviewing new flood mitigation classes for UI's campus next fall, as the worst summer flood season kicks off today. 

"As a university, we're always aware of the potential for flooding, and we're doing everything we can to prepare," said UI spokesperson Linda Rettke.

For instance, the university has built new flood barriers around the central campus area, and has installed new emergency generators to provide power during a flood event.

The university has also trained its staff and faculty on how to respond to a flood event, and has developed a comprehensive evacuation plan for students and faculty.

However, despite these preparations, there is always a risk of flooding, and the university is always prepared to respond.

"We're always ready to respond, and we're always prepared to protect the campus and our community," Rettke said.

For more information on UI's flood mitigation efforts, please visit uiowa.edu/floodprevention.
Cedar Falls

The Shell Rock, Beaver Creek, and Loess Fork rivers have swollen, raising the normal level of the Cedar River and creating a flood threat. The city of Cedar Falls is under a state of emergency.

Cedar Falls residents are being advised to evacuate if their homes are in the flood zone.

The National Weather Service predicts the Cedar River will crest at 160 feet - 12 feet over Good Hope Lock. The crest will be below the top of the flood levees, so flooding is not expected. However, without proper precautions, the city has advised residents north of the river in flood-prone areas to prepare.

Were you in Cedar Falls during the flood? Share your experience.

Winneshiek County

Martina Timmerman was in her car when she was stuck in the floodwaters. She was able to get out of her car and visit a nearby business before the water receded.

The county's emergency management team is working to help residents in need.

Cedar Rapids/Fire chief says railroad span at risk

A boiler vessel at the Wells Fargo Building in Cedar Rapids caused a boiler explosion, leading to a fire. The building was evacuated, and there were no reported injuries.

Cedar Rapids was hit by severe flooding last year, and residents are once again preparing for a potential disaster.

Richard Campbell of Cedar Rapids carries a pepper spray as he rescues his dog from the water. The dog, named Bella, was rescued by a neighbor and saved.

The Cedar Rapids/Edison Cooperative has set up a disaster relief center at its headquarters in Cedar Rapids to help residents affected by the flood.