

AVMA Disaster Update: Greenburg, Kansas F5 Tornado

Date: May 7, 2007 (11 a.m. Eastern)

Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) Update

No Activation / No Deployment - At this time

Kansas Veterinary Medical Association Update: Pending

Humane Organization Update: Pending

Associated Press Update

GREENSBURG, Kan. - ...search crews began a third sweep of Greensburg for more victims, though the state's adjutant general said he didn't expect to find any. The tornado claimed at least eight lives in the town of 1,500 residents, taking the statewide toll to 10 from the weekend storms. The F5 tornado demolished every business on the main street. Churches lost their steeples, trees were stripped of their branches, and neighborhoods were flattened. Officials estimate as much as 95 percent of the town was destroyed.

The tornado's wind was estimated to have reached 205 mph as it carved a track 1.7 miles wide and 22 miles long.

The National Weather Service classified it an F-5, the highest category and the first since the weather service revised its scale this year in an effort to more comprehensively gauge tornadoes' damage potential, with less emphasis on wind speed. The last tornado classified as an F-5 hit the Oklahoma City area on May 3, 1999, killing 36 people.

[President Bush](#) had already declared parts of Kansas a disaster area, freeing up federal money to aid the recovery.

The storm system that swept south-central Kansas also spawned tornadoes in Illinois, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Nebraska.

In southwest Iowa, nearly 1,600 residents of Red Oak and all of tiny Coburg were urged to evacuate Monday as the East Nishnabotna River and a creek rose out of their banks. Flood stage at Red Oak is 18 feet but the river had already hit 25.7 feet early Monday and was still rising, said Adam Wainwright, emergency management coordinator for Montgomery County.