

Friday, June 9, 1989

Tornadoes rip across Louisiana; 2 dead, dozens of homes destroyed

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A tornado smashed nearly a square mile of a small, rural town in Louisiana early Thursday, killing two people. Tornadoes, rain and high wind from thunderstorms also caused damage in parts of Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

The violent weather began developing along the Gulf Coast on Wednesday, when a man who sought shelter in a metal-roofed shed near Stapleton, Ala., was killed by lightning.

Tornadoes skipped across several Louisiana parishes early Thursday. One twister struck the small town of Grosse Tete, La., about 6 a.m. Thursday, destroying at least 25 residences and injuring at least 15 people, in addition to the two people killed, authorities said.

"We can't imagine how more aren't dead," Willie Hurdle, a member of the Iberville Parish Police

Jury, said of the town of 790 people. "This is devastating. There's about 20 houses that aren't even here anymore."

No serious injuries were reported 15 miles away in Baton Rouge, where Fire Chief Ron Spillman said at least four twisters touched down 19 times, destroying or damaging almost 70 mobile homes and 25 to 30 houses.

Spillman estimated that between 400 and 600 people lived in the destroyed or damaged residences. A shelter was set up at a high school for those left homeless.

Pieces of mobile homes were strewn in tree tops in Grosse Tete. About 100 people were evacuated and were put up in emergency shelters, Hurdle said. The storm left the town without electricity, natural gas, water and most telephone service.

One elderly woman was rescued from the rubble of her home after rescuers used a power saw to cut through a pile of wood. Dogs were

taken to the area to search for more bodies and trapped survivors.

Over a two-hour period, tornadoes also were reported in the parishes of West Baton Rouge, St. Helena, Livingston and Tangipahoa. The early morning tornadoes in southeastern Louisiana followed a night of violent weather in the western and central part of the state in which several homes were destroyed or damaged late Wednesday, but no serious injuries were reported.

A line of thunderstorms that pounded the Florida Panhandle produced several tornadoes that destroyed a house, damaged a super-

market and knocked down two temporary buildings. At least 6 inches of rain fell at Milton, the National Weather Service reported.

A U.S. park ranger suffered a broken arm and cuts Thursday when a tornado destroyed the entrance station at the Fort Pickens section of the Gulf Islands National Seashore on the western Florida Panhandle. She was thrown 10 to 15 yards and only the concrete foundation of the station was left, officials said.

Another tornado hit Ellisville, Miss., damaging buildings and uprooting trees.

Aggie Volunteers receive exposure to patient care

By Richard Tijerina

STAFF WRITER

To help train volunteers in the line of hospital patient care, Humana Hospital-Brazos Valley has organized the Aggie Volunteer Program to give participants exposure to hospital care.

The program begins June 16 and will run throughout the summer school sessions.

The hospital will hold an orientation session tonight at 7 in the Humana Hospital Classroom to give hopeful volunteers an overview of hospital policies and procedures, a hospital tour, a discussion of job de-

scriptions and information on the submitting of applications and schedules.

Applications for the program can be obtained at the orientation session and volunteers can schedule their own hours to help fit their volunteer work into their academic and work schedules.

Aggie Volunteers are not allowed to participate in actual hands-on patient care, but they are exposed to many hospital experiences such as nursing service, intensive care, emergency services, physical therapy, laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, business office and medical records.

Handgun opinion by Mattox causes dissent among judges

HOUSTON (AP) — The attorney general's opinion that Texas judges can't tote guns outside the courtroom has raised the ire of some jurists, who say they've held the right since Judge Roy Bean governed the land west of the Pecos.

Harris County Court-at-Law Judge Jimmie Duncan said Texas judges have been carrying guns since a court ruled they had that right nearly a century ago.

"That old case is still the law, no matter how old it is," Duncan said. "I think (Texas Attorney General Jim)

Mattox is wrong. He's just a lawyer, and that's just a lawyer's opinion."

Bean, a saloon-keeper and justice of the peace, was noted for holding court at one end of his bar and relying on his six-guns to keep order. He gained notoriety for his colorful decisions and his boasts that he was the only "Law West of the Pecos."

From a practical standpoint, judges have little to fear, said Duncan.

"Not many police officers are going to arrest a judge for carrying a gun," Duncan said.

Lawmaker lists plants with high cancer risks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Here is a list of the Texas industrial facilities identified by the EPA as releasing toxic chemicals with a severe cancer risk. The list, by risk category, includes the plant and the city.

Some plants are listed more than once due to testing of different chemicals.

A cancer risk of at least one in 10:

Texaco, Port Neches.
A risk of at least 1 in 100 but less than 10 in 100:

Arco Chemicals, Channelview.
Goodyear Tire, Beaumont.
Polysar, Orange.
Arco, Channelview.
El Paso, Corpus Christi.
Shell Oil, Deer Park.
Texas Petrochem, Houston.
B.F. Goodrich, Port Neches.
Gen Corp., Odessa.
Goodyear, Houston.
Uniroyal, Port Neches.
ICI Americas, Bayport.
Texaco, Port Neches.
Texas Eastman, Longview.
A risk of at least 1 in 1,000 but less than 1 in 100:

Asarco, El Paso.
Denka, Houston.
Firestone, Orange.
Phillips, Borger.
Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi.
Dow, Freeport.
Exxon, Baytown.
Mobil, Beaumont.
Phillips, Borger.
E.I. Dupont, Beaumont.
Dupont, Corpus Christi.
SDS Biotech, Houston.
Temple Eastex, Silsbee.
E.I. Dupont-Hypalon, Beaumont.
Champion International, Houston.
Champion International, Lufkin.
American Chrome, Corpus Christi.
Amoco, Texas City.
Diamond Shamrock, Deer Park.
Formosa, Point Comfort.
Shell, Deer Park.
Johnson & Johnson, Sherman.
Sherwood Medical, Commerce.
PD Glycol, Beaumont.
Dupont, LaPorte.

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