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PRESS RELEASE

03/31/2007

Ref: Severe Weather

March 29 and March 30, 2007 Coryell County experienced severe weather ranging from flooding rains, high wind, small hail, and even an unconfirmed tornado.

During these two days the Coryell County Sheriff's Office received hundreds of weather related calls. Our office records show that Emergency Responders through out the county responded to eleven vehicles that had been washed off by flood waters. Out of those eleven vehicles there were five people rescued. There were seven houses that had to be evacuated because of the flooding and two trailer houses on Kubitz Road just off Lutheran Church Road were washed from their foundations. Also in the Bluestem area just off FM 116 a dam washed out causing the Bluestem Lake dam to also washout. According to deputies on the scene approximately twelve houses were damaged by the dams washing out.

Other damage from the flood waters were six bridges washed out and numerous reports of roadways being washed out all throughout the county.

According to damage reports from Emergency Responders and Deputies from the Sheriff's Office a reported tornado that touched down just south of the Flat area caused damage to some barns and also many trees were blown over and blocking the roadways. Electric and telephone service was out. The damage from the reported tornado was from County Road 356 to 342 and 344.

Numerous weather related traffic accidents were also reported.

During these two days of severe weather Sheriff Johnny Burks said that he wants to commend all of the emergency responders that responded to the calls for help. Sheriff Burks said that the citizens of this county should be proud of the emergency services, which most of the emergency responders are volunteers. They give their time and risk their lives to help those who are in danger. It was quite chaotic during these events but all of the emergency personnel handled the situations with great professionalism and cooperation.

Over the next few days our deputies and the Emergency Management Coordinator will be surveying the areas damaged. I'm sure there is more damage that we have reported at this time and after the survey we can get an estimate on the cost.

County Judge Riley Simpson and the Emergency Management Coordinator Phil Yarbrough have declared the county a disaster area and have asked for assistance from the State.

During both days of this severe weather no serious injuries have been reported.

Sheriff Johnny Burks
Coryell County