

Joplin, Missouri Tornado MAT

Daily Report

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Overview

A Mitigation Assessment Team consisting of 10 members deployed to the damage area for data gathering. The majority of the day was spent on the eastern side of the damage area. The team visited Joplin High School, East Joplin Middle School, Wal-Mart, Home Depot, two safe rooms, the Plaza Apartments, and a communications tower near the Plaza Apartments.

Site Locations



Observations

Schools

- East Joplin Middle School built in 2009
- Schools were not occupied by students because the tornado occurred on a Sunday
- The team acquired refuge area maps for both schools and assessed damage to the areas that would have been used for sheltering
- Gymnasium and auditorium in both schools sustained major damage



Joplin High School: Exterior damage on West wall



Joplin High School: Exterior damage on North wall



Joplin High School: Gymnasium



East Joplin Middle School: Gymnasium



East Joplin Middle School: A refuge room. All refuge rooms were labeled.

Large commercial stores

- Team had access to the inside of Wal-Mart and the perimeter of Home Depot
- Fatalities were reported at both Wal-Mart and Home Depot
- Both stores experienced partial roof collapse



Wal-Mart



Home Depot

Safe Rooms

- The team visited residential safe rooms that survived storms identified through newspaper articles
 - http://articles.ky3.com/2011-05-31/ground-shelter_29606574
 - Kevlar DuPont storm shelter (tested by TTU)
 - One occupant
 - Installed in garage
 - <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20110602/NEWS01/106020364/Hard-lesson-saves-family?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE>
 - TwisterSafe steel storm shelter (tested by TTU)
 - Two occupants
 - Installed in garage



Residential Safe Room

Apartments

- Varying levels of damage
- Damage mostly to upper floors



Plaza Apartments: General Damage



Plaza Apartments: General Damage



Plaza Apartments: Communications tower collapsed near Plaza Apartments