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Storm damages school

Meyer Elementary closed after roof peeled off

A severe storm swept through Fort Bend County early Friday morning with heavy rains and winds knocking out power in some areas and damaging an elementary school near Rosenberg.

Authorities are still trying to determine if it was a tornado that hit Meyer Elementary School, located between Rosenberg and Pleak.

No students were present at the school when the storm hit at about 6 a.m., but they began arriving shortly afterward, said Christy Willman, director of

Communications for Lamar School District. No injuries were reported.

School officials began moving the students, who were arriving on buses at Meyer Elementary, to Navarro Middle School in Rosenberg, and notified parents that classes had been canceled for the day at Meyer.

Fort Bend County Emergency Management Coordinator Jeff Braun said the school experienced heavy water damage, and eight classrooms were affected after a major portion of the roof col-

lapsed.

Braun said it is not known if a tornado caused the damage, and the National Weather Service indicated it may send personnel to survey the damage and make that determination.

Power lines and trees fell down on Powerline Road, which is near the elementary school, and similar problems were reported near Thompsons.

Some downed trees also were reported in Pecan Grove.

Willman said personnel from the Rosenberg Fire Department

responded immediately to the scene, followed by the county emergency personnel. School officials were trying to determine the extent of the damage Friday morning.

Willman said plans are to reopen Meyer on Monday.

Meyer Elementary has an enrollment of 576 students, she said.

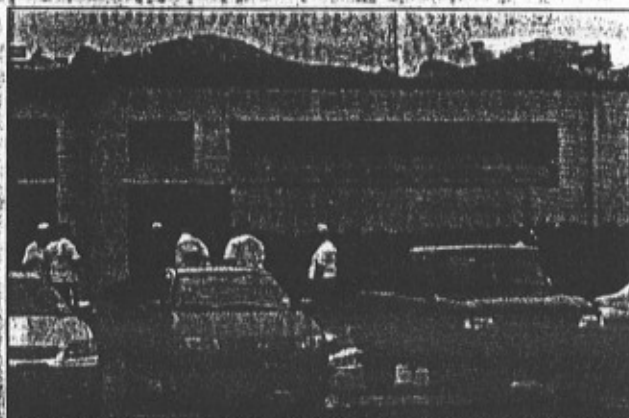
An estimated total of 780 Fort Bend County residents were without power during the storm and as of 10 a.m. Friday, 760 remained without electricity.

Roger Garris, service area man-

ager for CenterPoint Energy in Rosenberg, said most of the power outages occurred south of Rosenberg in the Damon, Pleak and Fairchild areas.

The largest area without power Friday morning was along Foster School Road, with 234 outages. Garris said the estimated time of repairs was about four hours.

However, the area along Cottonwood School Road would be last to have power restored because five electricity poles had been knocked down during the storm, he said.



Staff photos by Russell Autrey

At left, air conditioning workers with Automated Logic of Pasadena talk with Dick Stelmicky of LCISD to assess the damage done on the roof of Meyer Elementary School Friday morning. Above, the storm caused the roofing materials atop the school to peel back and damaged the inside of the school.