

Mother Nature showed angry side to Silverhill

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by **Andrea Williamson Brooks**

SILVERHILL, Ala. — Mother Nature unleashed her fury all across Southern Alabama on Wednesday, especially on the Central Baldwin community of Silverhill.

According to Paula Tillman, spokesperson for Baldwin Emergency Management Agency in Robertsdale, The National Weather Service in Mobile confirmed a tornado touched down between 9-9:30 a.m., and wreaked havoc on houses and businesses as it tore roofs off, picked up cars and trucks and slammed them to the ground and uprooted numerous trees along Hwy. 104 and County Road 55.

“NWA assessment teams and our own EMA teams were in Silverhill on Wednesday morning and afternoon looking at the damage and determining the size and strength of the tornado. They are still on the scene and should have more information by today,” Tillman said.

No major injuries were reported and most of the damage occurred on County Road 55 around the Post Office and Hwy. 104 and surrounding streets, Tillman said.

David Horton of Riviera Utilities said about 967 people were without power from 9:35 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. due to downed power lines and crews were on the scene immediately after the storm to assess damage and remove debris.

“All power is restored now to everyone who had it before and we tried to get to everyone as quickly as possible,” Horton said.

Many roads and streets were closed due to water, trees and other materials but Tillman said all roads are open and passable now. “The only roads that may not be passable are the ones with huge trees that fell and have crews still working on them but should be cleared pretty soon.”

Little Hall sustained damage and had air conditioners ripped off the roof but miraculously, Silverhill Elementary School did not sustain any damage and no students were in danger.

“Amazingly, there was no damage to the school and our students put all their severe weather drill preparation into practice as they were in the hallways on their knees with the hands over their heads. We were very lucky as none of our schools sustained any damage from the severe weather,” said Terry Wilhite, Baldwin County Board of Education Communication Director.

Students remained in schools across the county the whole day and were not dismissed early.