

## Naplate/Ottawa Tornado February 28, 2017

National Weather Service SURVEY\_SUMMARY: The first area of significant damage in the EF2 range was in the area around the La Salle County Nursing Home and La Salle County Highway Department, with lighter damage upstream from this location. The tornado continued into Naplate and produced widespread EF2 damage to numerous homes. EF3 damage also was identified in two locations. The first was where a minivan was thrown about 30 yards and a home was lifted off its foundation and left with only its interior walls intact. The second was at the Pilkington Glass plant where one section of the factory was completely destroyed. The tornado then crossed the Illinois River and moved through the south side of Ottawa, producing an 800 yard wide path of EF1 damage to trees and homes. The fatalities in Ottawa occurred from a tree falling onto two men who were working outside. The tornado then crossed the Illinois River again and continued to produce EF1 and EF0 damage as it exited Ottawa, finally dissipating in the area northwest of Marseilles.



Leonard Kennel (IL Unit State Coordinator) first made contact with the Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) during the summer. Ronn Frantz (IL Unit Chair) and Julian Jackson (Living Water Community Church) attended the LTRG meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>, then toured the area with the committee Chair, Alexis Ferracuti. The LTRG is composed of six or seven local community members, including leaders from a number

of civic and religious groups. They have organized into Financial, Case Management, Donations, Volunteer Management, Construction Management, and Hospitality Management, and Spiritual Management working groups. They reported that over six hundred homes were affected, of which 331 have requested assistance from the LTRG. Financial assistance and organizing gifts in kind have been given by the Group. Their case management appears to be active and effective. They report good relationships with the local trades. Many tradespeople have donated their time or provided services and materials at cost.

At this point, they have shared with MDS a list of seven properties that have not been able to be fully repaired. One of these homes has been substantially destroyed and will require major rebuilding. Those who have investigated the communities, along with our unit officers and Binational MDS staff, have concluded MDS should respond as an Illinois unit. This work will begin the first full week of February. It is anticipated work will continue for approximately five or six months.