

**CYCLONE ONE
OF WORST IN
S. D. HISTORY**

**Vast Property Loss
In Codington, Grant
And Roberts Counties**

Watertown, June 19. (AP)—Northeastern South Dakota today faced a gigantic task of rebuilding following the worst South Dakota tornado in recent history which killed at least 12 persons and injured 50 or more besides causing vast property damage in Codington, Grant, and Roberts counties late Saturday afternoon.

Aid was being rushed to the stricken area centered at Florence and Wilmot and machinery was being set in motion to permit rebuilding of hundreds of buildings which were destroyed or damaged by the violent storm.

Mrs. T. E. B. Higgins, chairman of the Codington Red Cross chapter, summoned a disaster representative from the area's Red Cross office in on the way from St. Louis to bring the full support of the national Red Cross to the aid of the South Dakota storm victims.

To guard the property of the storm victims and give them other assistance soldiers from the Watertown air base, Watertown state guard unit, and state and county law enforcement police were called to the scene of the tornado over the week-end.

The tornado, one of the most violent in South Dakota's history, apparently formed near Florence in southwestern Codington county at about 3:30 o'clock Saturday, swept through the southeastern part of town of Florence, and then, after lifting, struck across in the Marvin and Wilmot areas of Grant and Roberts before crossing Big Stone lake into Minnesota. The village of Bath near Aberdeen also was struck.

All of the storm deaths occurred in the Florence, Wilmot, and Bath areas. At Florence three persons were killed and 25 injured; in the Wilmot area eight killed and 35 injured while two were dead and two seriously injured at Bath. About 25 other persons, in addition to those hospitalized, were given first aid treatment after the storm Saturday night.

The southeastern part of the town of Florence and many farms in the vicinity were totally destroyed by the powerful storm which struck with a terrifying suddenness. In Florence at least nine homes were totally destroyed and others were damaged. Two elevator buildings and several other business buildings were damaged and a bulk tank containing 2,000 gallons of gasoline was carried two miles into the country where it was not located until Sunday morning.

The storm hit the Wilmot vicinity about six o'clock while many victims were at supper or gathered in their farm houses to be ready for supper.

Before reaching Wilmot it dipped into the Marvin vicinity in Grant county where two persons were injured.

The storm cut a path of destruction about 12 miles long and several blocks wide southwest, south, and east of Wilmot before crossing Big Stone lake into Minnesota. Many farms were totally destroyed in the path of the storm and others lost some buildings or suffered other damage.

The town of Wilmot was left untouched by the storm which passed within half a mile of the city limits.

In Minnesota the storm was reported to have struck Beardsley, Barry, Graceville and Johnson vicinities. At least two persons were hurt at Beardsley.

The little town of Bath, six miles east of Aberdeen, was a shambles today as the community counted two dead and two seriously injured and the destruction of all but three of its buildings. Two

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houses and a grain elevator were all that remained erect.

The town was reduced to a rubble. Furniture and other personal belongings were scattered about the village in grotesque confusion and all day Sunday a steady stream of Aberdeen cars visited the scene as state guards patrolled the area.

Damage to farm buildings and livestock reached as far west as Faulkton. In the path of the tornado were Warren, Webster, and Roslyn with numerous farm buildings destroyed throughout that huge area.

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