



# CITY OF KENNER

## PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR

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*For Immediate Release*

### **Kenner Working Toward Recovery From Weather Damage**

A tornado triggered by a severe line of thunderstorms that moved through Kenner shortly before noon damaged 22 homes and knocked out power to 30,000 Entergy customers in Metairie and Kenner, officials said.

In all, about 185 Kenner residents were affected by the storm - either with lost power or damage to their homes - or both. There were no reports of any injuries, officials said.

By 4 p.m., Entergy officials said power had been restored to all but about 1,200 to 1,500 Kenner customers. Power company officials said they expected outages on Acron Street to be restored by midnight, while it might take a while longer to fully restore power in northwest Kenner.

Eleven homes sustained major damage and another 11 homes had minor damage, according to officials with the American Red Cross and the Kenner Fire Department. Red Cross workers were in the field Wednesday afternoon assessing the damage. More than 60 tarps were handed out to protect roof damage, officials said.

About 85 residents along West Loyola lost power or sustained damage to their homes, officials said. In the 2700 block of Acron, another 100 residents were impacted.

Kenner Fire Chief John Hellmers asked all Kenner residents, particularly those in hard-hit northwest Kenner, to check their homes - particularly their roofs - for any damage. That includes apartment complexes.

"I think there's a good possibility we will be hearing about additional damage come (Thursday) morning," he said.

Officials with the National Weather Service's Slidell office said a survey team inspected the damage in Kenner and concluded that an F1 tornado was responsible. Much like hurricanes, tornadoes are rated on an intensity scale. F1 is the second lowest level out of six levels, with F5 being the highest. A F1 tornado can produce winds between 73 and 112 mph.

According to the weather service survey team, the majority of the tornado damage occurred between the 3800 and 4100 blocks of West Loyola Drive. The tornado, with winds estimated at 90 mph, was 50 yards wide and a half-mile long, according to the weather service.

A second tornado, this one in Metairie, also was confirmed by the Weather Service team on Wednesday. Winds were estimated at 75 mph and the path included the intersection of Veterans Boulevard and Transcontinental Drive, where a delivery truck was turned over and traffic lights were ripped off the power line. That tornado was rated an F0, which is the lowest on the tornado intensity scale.

Red Cross officials, with the help of the Salvation Army, provided hot meals for Kenner residents Wednesday evening. However, the Red Cross concluded there was no need for a shelter because residents indicated they would either remain in their homes or had friends or relatives who could provide shelter.

"Although there is some significant damage to homes, we are truly lucky that no one was injured. We are here for our community and will continue to assist our residents as they recover." Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni said.