# WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES DISASTER AWARENESS REPORT

March 6, 2023

### Severe Weather Activity

- Powerful storms swept through the South on Friday, leaving at least 13 people dead and hundreds of thousands of customers without electricity on Saturday.
- The fatalities occurred in Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas and Kentucky over the course of the two days as the storms trekked east.
- Heavy rains, severe winds and tornadoes damaged homes and businesses in Alabama, Arkansas, the Carolinas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and West Virginia.
- Kentucky was hit particularly hard by the storms, which left at least five people dead in the state, Gov. Andy Beshear said at a news conference.
- Power outages across the U.S. surged into the hundreds of thousands by Friday evening amid the vicious winds that tore at power lines and downed trees.
- The highest number of customers without power was in Kentucky where over 470,000 customers were left in the dark by Friday evening, according to PowerOutage.US. The state was followed by Tennessee, which had over 332,000 customers without power.
- While strong winds were one of the bigger threats throughout the event, a few tornadoes also spawned as the storms darkened the sky.
- The National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center recorded six preliminary tornado reports in Texas and Louisiana on Friday and an additional two in Kentucky on Friday.
- In addition to these reports, a survey team from the NWS office in Little Rock determined the damage in Kirby, Arkansas, from Thursday was consistent with a strong EF2 tornado.
- NWS survey teams assessed damage in Pickton, Texas, located in Hopkins County, and confirmed an EF1 tornado with estimated max wind gusts of 110 mph had torn through the area. Other surveys have yet to be completed.



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#### Kentucky

- Gov. Andy Beshear, along with local government and state emergency management officials, toured some of the damage on Sunday in the small western Kentucky community of Freemont just south of Paducah, in McCracken County which he called "the hardest hit area of the state."
- Preliminary data from the National Weather Service indicates Freemont was hit by an EF-2 tornado that stayed on the ground for a mile and a half, with peak winds reaching 125 mph at a maximum width of around 175 yards.
- Initial estimates for damage in the community proved low, with McCracken County Emergency Management director Rob Estes confirming Sunday that 68 homes had been damaged and four had been destroyed in the storm.
- Since the storms on Friday, Beshear said, 64 of Kentucky's 120 counties along with 19 cities have declared a state of emergency. He also declared a state of emergency for Kentucky on the day of the storm.

Oklahoma (Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> storms)

- At least 80 homes in Norman were destroyed or significantly damaged in the Feb. 26th tornado, according to the Red Cross, which began assisting residents with casework support on Saturday.
- Severe storms on Feb. 26 produced several tornadoes across Oklahoma, including in Norman, Shawnee and other central Oklahoma communities.
- Officials with the Red Cross began offering inperson casework Saturday in the Norman area, beloing victims pavigate applications for f

Kansas-Oklahoma Region.



area, helping victims navigate applications for federal disaster assistance funds.
As of Friday, Red Cross teams had completed nearly 400 damage assessments for homes throughout Norman, according to Matt Trotter, a spokesperson for the American Red Cross

| Pending Individual Assistance Declaration Request |  |                   |                         |                              |  |  |  |
|---|--|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| State   | Event  | Date<br>Submitted | Approved/Denied/Pending | Number of<br>Counties/Tribes |  |  |  |
| WV  | Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides,<br>and Mudslides (Appeal) | 1/27/2023         | Pending                 | 2 Counties                   |  |  |  |
| ТΧ  | Severe Storms & Tornadoes<br>Jan 24, 2023                      | 2/7/2023          | Pending                 | 4 Counties                   |  |  |  |

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| WSP USA Inspection Services Active Disasters |   |                                |                      |                          |  |  |  |
|--|---|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| Disaster Number<br>and State                 | Disaster Type                             | Number of Counties<br>Declared | Days Since<br>Launch | Registration<br>Deadline |  |  |  |
| 4671 PR                                      | 4671 PR Hurricane Fiona 78 Municipalities |                                | 164                  | 11/21/2022               |  |  |  |
| 4673 FL                                      | Hurricane Ian                             | 26 Counties                    | 155                  | 1/12/2023                |  |  |  |

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### WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES ACTIVITY

