

# Damage to reach into millions

The cost of the cleanup effort following the July 15 tornadoes that ripped through Council Bluffs will reach well into the millions of dollars.

Officials estimated damage to businesses and commercial property at more than \$5 million and at \$25 million to residences.

Uninsured damage estimates of public facilities is at \$1.7 million.

As of Aug. 5, President Reagan had signed a declaration providing federal disaster assistance for uninsured losses to public property, but had not yet approved federal disaster aid for residential and commercial property damaged by the tornadoes.

The final figures could be higher or lower than the Federal Emergency Management Agency's estimates. The agency will pay 75 percent of the final cost for public property damage whatever it may be, according to Pam McKinney, press secretary for U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa.

FEMA funding comes from the President's Disaster Fund. The other 25 percent of the storm repair costs will be paid with a combination of state and local funds.

State officials and officials from FEMA opened an office at the Federal Building in Council Bluffs following Reagan's initial disaster declaration July 28.

Federal money can be used for debris removal, road repair, damage to parks and recreation facilities and any protective measures taken immediately after the storm to ensure health and safety, according to FEMA officials.

Tree replacement along street right of way and in city parks is a legitimate expense under the guidelines, but all expenditures will have to be approved by

FEMA representatives, said Dick Vohs, press secretary for Gov. Terry Branstad.

"There may be some choices to be made in how to go about rebuilding. FEMA's main role is not to say 'yes' or 'no' but to ensure that the applications conform to the guidelines," Vohs said.

FEMA officials are still collecting information on business, commercial and residential damage, and Branstad's request for assistance for uninsured damage to those properties is still being considered by FEMA officials, McKinney said.

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Shirlee Villarreal, 26, 2320 Ave. K, salvaged from the wreckage of her home a stuffed toy parrot named Fred given to her child by a grandmother. The Villarreal home and a neighbor's, Bonnie and Dennis Nusser, were flattened by the storm. No one in either home was seriously injured. — Photo by Joe Arterburn.