

mental stress problems, financial problems and so on. The task force is attempting to help those people.

Waiting to get the word on FEMA is one of the things that has held up the task force and the city, as well. If we don't get FEMA funds for the private sector, it's going to make it more difficult for Council Bluffs to recover properly. FEMA funds for the private sector are absolutely critical," Narmi said.

So far the task force has been successful in setting up a tornado hot line as a referral service for tornado victims. About 80 people called the hot line in the first four days. The calls ranged from people saying they had no insurance and no resources to help put their lives back together to people wanting to know how to get checks from FEMA, Narmi said.

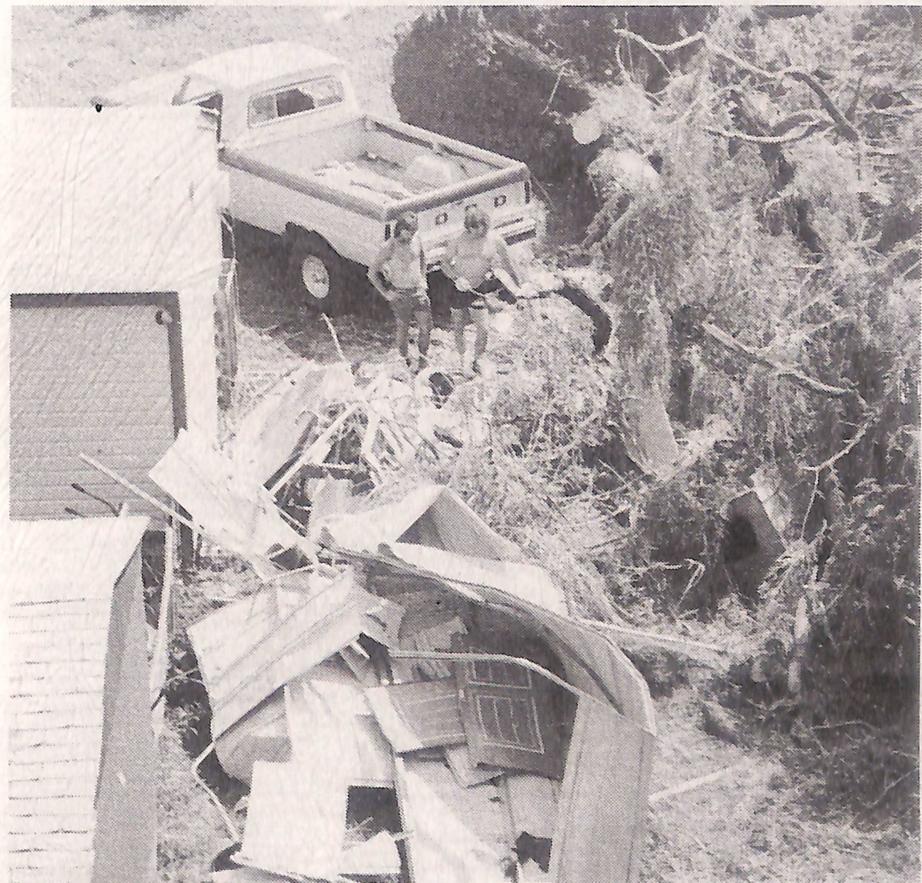
The task force has also been responsible for distributing flyers outlining dos and donts in dealing with contractors and repair services and emotional responses to the tornadoes.

The group has also set up volunteer recruitment committee headed by Wayne Hough of the Council Bluffs Ministerial Association and Jim Peterson, executive director of the Pottawattamie County Red Cross chapter.

The committee will work to match up needs coming in over the hot line with volunteers that may be able to meet those needs, Narmi said.

Other committees established by the task force are: Material needs, headed by Chuck Raffensperger of the Omaha Food Bank and Salvation Army Capt. Tom McDowell of Council Bluffs. The committee will handle contributions of food and clothing.

Anne Marie Aita, a representative of Mercy Hospital and a member of the Outreach and Council Bluffs ministerial associations, will chair the funding committee, which will



Don Mace, 1502 N. 22nd St., and his neighbor Jim Athay, 1510 N. 22nd St., spent a couple days dragging sawed sections of downed trees from their back yards. Two trees in Mace's yard were toppled into Athay's. The men used Mace's pickup to drag the tree sections to the street for removal by city cleanup crews. Mace's aluminum-sided shed ended up in a crumpled pile in Athay's yard.—Photo by Joe Arterburn.



Friends and neighbors came out to help immediately after the tornado passed through Council Bluffs. Dan Goodsell and Dan Partridge help drag fallen limbs that have been cut through with a chain saw from the yard of Rusty and Sandy Stucker, 2240 Ave. H.—Photo by Steve Glowacki.

target local, regional and national sources of money.

The health committee will be lead by Jim Friel, director of human resources at Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital.

Mayoral Assistant Randy Barritt and Eileen Wirth, a public relations representative from Union Pacific Railroad will head the public relations committee.