

## Gov. Sebelius meets with local leaders to address storm damage, repairs

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One day after an E-F4 tornado ripped through Manhattan, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius joined K-State President Jon Wefald and Manhattan city officials to discuss the damage and what was next for the campus and the community.

"K-State will do the assessment of their buildings; homeowners will deal with their insurance companies to make an assessment," Sebelius said during a press conference on June 12.

She went on to say that the state's main duty is debris removal but the appropriate state agencies would be brought in to give community members the tools they need to get on with their lives.

"In Kansas, the upside of storms ... is that the planning process really works," Sebelius said. "The local emergency managers step in first and call for assistance and eventually we will turn to the federal government."

Sebelius said she has talked to the directors of several federal agencies and that "they are aware of the storm."

The Miller Ranch residential area west of Seth Child Road was the hardest-hit location in Manhattan. With blocks of homes destroyed, volunteers poured into the area to offer help. K-State President Jon Wefald said volunteers were "coming out of the woodwork" to help their community.

Rep. Sydney Carlin, D-Manhattan, said the city is organizing teams of volunteers who will be sent to where they are needed most.

In addition to community members, the K-State football team made it out to help clean up.

"Ron Prince did that on his own," Wefald said. "I appreciate that our football players were out in force. Of course, they can carry a lot of material."

Sebelius said that despite the severity of the storm, there were no deaths or injuries reported in Riley County. Carlin said that looting was "nipped in the bud" and that only two reports of looting surfaced.

A state of emergency was not declared after the tornado because one was already in effect from storms in May. Sebelius explained that the state was still open and that Fort Riley, Manhattan and K-State will be moved into that classification.

The governor also commented on the quickly organized clean-up efforts and the will of the people affected by the storms.

"Kansans are amazing. These folks are resilient," Sebelius said.