



## COUNTY OF AMHERST

### Public Information Officer

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**For Immediate Release**

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### Amherst County Tornado

On Sunday, April 15, 2018, an EF3 tornado hit Amherst County. This was the first ever reported tornado to come into contact with the County and its residents. Several families' homes were completely leveled and they are now left displaced. As of today April 20, 2018, 292 structures have been assessed by Amherst County Building and Inspections. Out of those structures, 173 are damaged, 126 have minor damage, 25 are restricted use, and 22 are destroyed. The rough estimate of property damaged is currently \$ 4.6 million but that number is estimated to increase every day.

The Amherst County community came together in a time of crisis, and was able to pick each other up, and help each other get through this horrific experience. Thousands of people from all over reached out wanting to volunteer or donate to the ones affected. Over 500 people volunteered on Wednesday, April 18, with the organized volunteer groups that went out to Elon. The organization, Gleaning for the World, has stepped up and has been our go to donation center. They have been in charge of accepting clothes, money, and other supplies. They have also been in charge of distributing these donations to the affected people.

Virtually every organization within the County has donated both their time and energy in any way that it could. A resource center was available for those who needed assistance on Wednesday, April 18 by agencies that participated such as: DMV, Post Office, Nationwide, Farm Bureau, All-State, Social Security, Virginia Department of Health, Red Cross, Amherst Social Services, Community Services Board, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Forestry and Amherst Building and Inspections. This will be an ongoing process and is far from over, but with the help of outside organizations and our own citizens we have turned this tragedy into a unifying, community-building event.

On behalf of the County we would like to thank all of the organizations and all of the volunteers that have selflessly given their time and resources to help make this terrible experience one that drew all of us together.

Additional information may be obtained from Layney Sandifer at [lesandifer@countyofamherst.com](mailto:lesandifer@countyofamherst.com) or (434)-946-9400.