

Governor declares storm emergency in Umatilla County

Officials can begin processing requests for FEMA aid

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Gov. Ted Kulongoski has declared a state of emergency for Umatilla County to help cope with the effect of a Pacific storm that spread high winds and damage through parts of the state.

The cities of Adams, Athena, Milton-Freewater, Pilot Rock and Weston were the hardest hit, according to the governor's office.

"We actually had houses that had their roofs blown off," said J.B. Brock, emergency services manager in neighboring Union County.

The emergency declaration allows Umatilla County to receive any state assistance needed immediately and begin processing any requests for individual assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The storm that slammed into the West Coast on Fri-

Tree falls on home

A fir tree more than 100 feet tall crashed onto a house on Fir Street S Friday night, blown down by a Pacific storm.

The tree fell onto Daniel and Sachiko Van Eaton's home at 1555 Fir St. S about 7:15 p.m. Thought to be more than 250 years old, the tree damaged the roof over the outside balcony as well the couple's 1995 Chrysler New Yorker.

A branch also smashed through

a window of the second-floor den, impaling a couch.

The Van Eatons were downstairs when the tree fell and were not hurt.

"It was a terrible blow," Daniel Van Eaton said. "It sounded like a stick of dynamite going off."

Workers from Elwood's Tree Service in Keizer started cleaning up the mess about 12:15 p.m. Saturday, just a few hours before the Van Eatons were scheduled to host a New Year's party.

— Eunice Kim

day interrupted travel on the two main interstate freeways in Oregon and forced the closure of the Mount Ashland ski area because of blizzard conditions.

Shipping traffic was stalled Friday after high winds and surf forced the Coast Guard to close the Tillamook Bay and Columbia River bars.

Mark Hanson, vice president at Transmarine Navigation in Portland, said the closures cost ship owners \$50,000 to \$100,000 per day as wheat, new cars and logs

wait for the weather to clear.

State transportation officials warned of hazardous driving conditions, especially in the mountains, where heavy snow was expected through the weekend.

In Central Point, a woman died when a tree crushed her car, according to the Jackson County sheriff's office.

Rosetta Carlson, 50, was on her way to work at Bear Creek Corp. about 6 a.m. Friday when the tree toppled after a night of heavy wind and rain, said sheriff's



THOMAS PATTERSON | Statesman Journal

Winds from a storm that blew through the Northwest toppled a tree late Friday and damaged this house in the 1500 block of Fir Street S in Salem. Dustin Young (left) and Jeremy Eucken of Elwood's Tree Service clean up the scene Saturday. The tree was about 38 inches in diameter and 110 feet tall.

Detective Sgt. Colin Fagan.

In the Portland metro area, Portland General Elec-

tric said most of the service

in areas affected by high winds had been restored,

with fewer than 200 customers still without power by Saturday morning.