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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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SCEMD Responds To Tornadoes

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Monday, April 16, 2007, NOON) – The South Carolina Emergency Management Division is assessing damage caused by severe weekend weather, including two tornadoes that touched down on Sunday morning in Sumter County, resulting in one fatality and several injuries.

The Division activated the State Emergency Operations Center on a limited basis today, and Director Ron Osborne traveled to jointly assess damage with local officials.

Initial assessments in Sumter County indicated 15 structures with major damage and more than 50 structures with minor damage.

The National Weather Service confirmed that two tornadoes touched down Sunday morning in Sumter County, one on S.C. 76 near Mayesville and the other on S.C. 120 near Pinewood.

Other damage also was reported from high winds and heavy rains Saturday night and Sunday morning in Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Horry and Orangeburg counties. The National Weather Service confirmed a tornado touchdown in Lee County, but no major damage was reported.

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