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Sheldon Airport Hit By Storms

June 22, 2015, 5:09 PM by Sammi Bjelland



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SHELDON, IA - The storm was powerful when it arrived in northwest Iowa. Winds damaged farms and business -- including Sheldon's airport.

"We came out here and noticed the office was fine, but came around the corner and realized that ok, now the hangars collapsed or blown away," airport employee Nicholas Vust said.

The storms that swept through northwest Iowa left damage on the ground that will impact operations in the sky at the Sheldon Airport.

"There was five airplanes and one car; for sure, four airplanes are totaled. The one is a project airplane and it's being built right now, and he thinks he can rebuild it," Vust said.

"At my stage, I'm debating whether or not to repair it or just turn it over to somebody else to finish. It's a matter of priorities. Do I want to spend the rest of my life redoing things I've spend the last couple years doing," owner of plane wrecked in hanger, Fred Stratman, said.

There were five hangars at the Sheldon Airport, but straight-line winds tore one of those down, Leaving nothing but debris behind.

"This is Iowa. We get strong winds on a normal day. Yeah, this is freakish," Stratman said.

Airport staff says each airplane has its own insurance policy, but other things won't be so easily replaced.

"Unfortunately this hangar houses our runway lights and our fuel systems. All of our runway light control systems and fuel control system is in this hanger," Vust said.

Those runway lights were just turned on two weeks ago, and now they are a total loss. Even though things are looking dark now, they do see a light at the end of the tunnel.

"After we get the ok to pick it up, we're going to have plenty of volunteers who are going to come out and help. The community and just the airport itself," Vust said.

Vust says the biggest concern right now is figuring out what to do about the damaged runway

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lights and wiring so the airport can open again.

The video below is from surveillance cameras at the airport.

Courtesy: KIWA Radio in Sheldon

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