

## Spring storm roars into Holyoke

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

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Huge trees were uprooted, airport hangars blew away, buildings were leveled, a semi overturned, and much of the town lost power Monday evening, April 8, when a spring storm roared into Holyoke.

Reports Tuesday morning indicated no injuries in the barrage of bad weather, which can be counted as a huge positive in the aftermath of the storm.

Power was restored in most of the area by midnight, but the wind continued to howl and snow flurries flew.

School was canceled Tuesday in Holyoke School District Re-1J, as the storm continued to blow and gust during the day.

Throughout the day Monday, a big storm was predicted, but it was hard to fathom as the 74-degree temps and sunshine made it feel like a nice, spring day.

Winds around 15-20 mph Monday afternoon increased to 30 mph with rain by 7 p.m. The storm was brewing.

Hail pounded and the wind speed escalated. At 8:15 p.m., the siren blew, summoning Holyoke Volunteer Fire Department. Fire Chief Phil Wirges reported there were no actual fires, but the VFD responded to eight back-to-back calls at that time.

About that same time, the power went out in much of Holyoke, and strange tornado-like action wreaked havoc across the area. Residents reported flying pivot tanks, flying trampolines and more.

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