

Press Release
Friday Night Storm Related Events
Saturday, May 16, 2026

RED OAK, IOWA

Yesterday evening, Red Oak was hit by a severe storm that brought dangerous winds and caused significant damage across our community.

During the immediate response, the priority was clear: allow our emergency responders, city crews, utility workers, and assisting agencies to focus on protecting lives, responding to calls, clearing hazards, and beginning the work of recovery. As we move forward today, I want to take a moment to recognize the many people who stepped up when our community needed them.

Our firefighters, law enforcement officers, dispatchers, public works crews, utility workers, neighboring responding agencies, volunteers, local tree services, and many others worked through difficult and dangerous conditions to help Red Oak.

We are especially grateful to the surrounding communities and agencies that came to our aid. When help was needed, they answered without hesitation.

To every resident who checked on a neighbor, moved a branch, offered help, showed patience, or stepped up where they could, thank you. That is what community looks like.

The coming days will take work. There will be cleanup, repairs, and challenges ahead. Red Oak has faced hard days before, but we will get through this the same way we always do: together.

Please continue to use caution around downed limbs, damaged structures, power lines, and cleanup areas. Give crews room to work, check on your neighbors, and follow updates from the City and emergency officials as more information becomes available.

As Mayor, I am thankful for the people who serve this community and proud of the way Red Oak shows up when it matters most.

Mayor Timothy J. Fridolph

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