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(Wyo.) - Powerful storms damage homes in Colo., Wyo.



By: John Thayer Posted at: 06/08/2012 11:43 AM

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) -- A rare quarter-mile-wide tornado that roared through mainly open country near Wheatland ripped off roofs and shingles, destroyed outbuildings and derailed empty train cars.

National Weather Service meteorologist Richard Emanuel said the tornado stayed on the ground for much of its 20-mile path from west of Wheatland to northeast of Chugwater. The area is about 60 miles north of Cheyenne.

The twister was part of a powerful storm system that rolled through parts of Colorado and Wyoming on Thursday, packing heavy rains, high winds and hail.

The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security said the twister near Wheatland left five structures heavily damaged, and 10 to 12 other structures had lesser damage.

Hail the size of golf balls was reported in the Wheatland area, and 2-inch hail was reported in Laramie.

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