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## Phones, computers down after lightning hit

**GOVERNOR DECLARES SALINE COUNTY DISASTER AREA**

**By Jillian Fry**

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Lightning struck the Saline County Courthouse on Monday, blowing out county phone and computer systems.

County Judge Lanny Fite said at Tuesday night's Quorum Court meeting that the bad news is it will cost "thousands upon thousands of dollars" to repair the systems and get things running again. More bad news, Fite said, is that the holiday lights already in place on the courthouse were blown out by the bolt.

The good news is no one was injured.

The offices affected by the bolt of lightning are the sheriff's office, Office of Emergency Management and Benton District Court, said Rosemary Westbrook, the county's purchasing director and Web master.

"We found out yesterday [the phones are not functioning] because eight cards in the phone system [were affected]. We've replaced two of them already. We then had to order six more."

She added that "some of the are computers back up and that a lot of hubs and switches are also out." She said "hopefully" by this afternoon the phones will be working.

Sheriff Phil Mask said the office's "the computers, phones everything's down.