

National Weather Service Confirms Tornado in Rowan County

posted by Frank Thomason on Monday, April 18, 2011 12:00 AM

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREENVILLE-SPARTANBURG SC

...MULTIPLE TORNADOES CONFIRMED ON APRIL 16 2011...

...TORNADO CONFIRMED NEAR 4.5 NNW TO 6.5 N SALISBURY IN ROWAN COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA...

LOCATION...4.5 NNW TO 6.5 N SALISBURY IN ROWAN COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

DATE...APRIL 16 2011

ESTIMATED TIME...1241 PM EDT

MAXIMUM EF-SCALE RATING...EF1

ESTIMATED MAXIMUM WIND SPEED...105 MPH

MAXIMUM PATH WIDTH...100 YARDS

PATH LENGTH...3.5 MILES

BEGINNING LAT/LON...35.73N / 80.51W

ENDING LAT/LON...35.77N / 80.47W

* FATALITIES...0

* INJURIES...0

* THE INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING FINAL REVIEW OF THE EVENT(S) AND PUBLICATION IN NWS STORM DATA.

...SUMMARY...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN GREENVILLE-SPARTANBURG SC HAS CONFIRMED A TORNADO FROM 4.5 NNW TO 6.5 N SALISBURY IN ROWAN COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA ON APRIL 16 2011.

THE TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN IN THE FRANKLIN COMMUNITY...WITH THE CONCENTRATED DAMAGE PATH BEGINNING IN A WOODED AREA BETWEEN THOMASON RD AND HENRY LANE...JUST WEST OF HIGHWAY 601. SEVERAL UPROOTED TREES WERE NOTED AT THE END OF HENRY LANE. THE TORNADO CONTINUED NORTHEAST TOWARD ELLIOT DRIVE...WHERE A LARGE SECTION OF ROOF WAS PEELED OFF A MOBILE HOME...AND TWO LARGE TREES FELL AND SEVERELY DAMAGED A SECOND MOBILE HOME. ADDITIONAL UPROOTED TREES...MAINLY PINES...WERE NOTED IN THIS AREA. THE TORNADO CROSSED HIGHWAY 601 JUST NORTH OF HIDDEN VALLEY ROAD. NUMEROUS TREES WERE UPROOTED AROUND HIDDEN VALLEY RD. SOME HOMES SUSTAINED MINOR ROOF DAMAGE AND THE ROOF WAS BLOWN OFF AN OUTBUILDING AS WELL. AS THE TORNADO CROSSED HIGHWAY 601...NUMEROUS PINE TREES WERE SNAPPED OFF 10 TO 20 FEET HIGH. THE SURVEY TEAM THEN LOST THE TRACK AS IT ENTERED A DENSELY WOODED AREA ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE HIGHWAY. MOST OF THE DAMAGE WAS ORIENTED TOWARD THE NORTHWEST... WITH SOME DAMAGE BLOWN ALMOST DUE WEST. THE STORM MOTION WAS TOWARD THE NORTHEAST...SO THE DAMAGE PATTERN WAS CONVERGENT WITH THE TRACK OF THE PARENT THUNDERSTORM...INDICATING STRONG INFLOW INTO THE STORM. THE WIDTH OF THE PATH WAS AROUND 75 YARDS IN THIS AREA. THESE FACTORS ARE CONSISTENT WITH A TORNADO.

THERE WAS SOME DAMAGE SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS TO THE RIGHT OF THE MAIN CONCENTRATED DAMAGE PATH THAT WAS ORIENTED TOWARD THE NORTHEAST. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN OUTFLOW WINDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REAR FLANK DOWNDRAFT.

THE TORNADO PATH WAS PICKED UP AGAIN IN A WOODED AREA ALONG OLD MOCKSVILLE ROAD...JUST SOUTH OF THE YOUNG FARM ROAD INTERSECTION. THE TORNADO WAS AT ITS MOST INTENSE AND WIDEST PHASE AT THIS POINT...WITH NUMEROUS TREES SNAPPED 10 TO 20 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND IN A VERY CONCENTRATED PATH ABOUT 100 YARDS WIDE. A CARPORT WAS DESTROYED ACROSS FROM THE NEWPORT DRIVE INTERSECTION...WHILE MOST OF THE ROOF COVERING WAS REMOVED FROM A FRAME HOME AT THE INTERSECTION OF NEWPORT DRIVE AND OLD MOCKSVILLE ROAD. ANOTHER HOME DOWN NEWPORT DRIVE HAD MOST OF ITS SHINGLES STRIPPED. SEVERAL LARGE TREES FELL ON ANOTHER HOME ON NEWPORT DRIVE...SEVERELY DAMAGING THE STRUCTURE. THE PATH NARROWED TOWARD THE END OF NEWPORT ROAD...BUT REMAINED FAIRLY INTENSE...WITH NUMEROUS TREES DOWNED IN VARYING DIRECTIONS. THE PATH WAS ONCE AGAIN LOST IN AN INACCESSIBLE WOODED AREA NORTHEAST OF NEWPORT DRIVE. HOWEVER...ANOTHER AREA OF TORNADO DAMAGE WAS FOUND IN EXTREME SOUTHEAST DAVIE COUNTY...AND THIS WAS LIKELY THE CONTINUATION OF THE PATH OF THE ROWAN COUNTY TORNADO.

FOR REFERENCE...THE ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE CLASSIFIES TORNADOES INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

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EF0...WIND SPEEDS 65 TO 85 MPH.
EF1...WIND SPEEDS 86 TO 110 MPH.
EF2...WIND SPEEDS 111 TO 135 MPH.
EF3...WIND SPEEDS 136 TO 165 MPH.
EF4...WIND SPEEDS 166 TO 200 MPH.
EF5...WIND SPEEDS GREATER THAN 200 MPH.