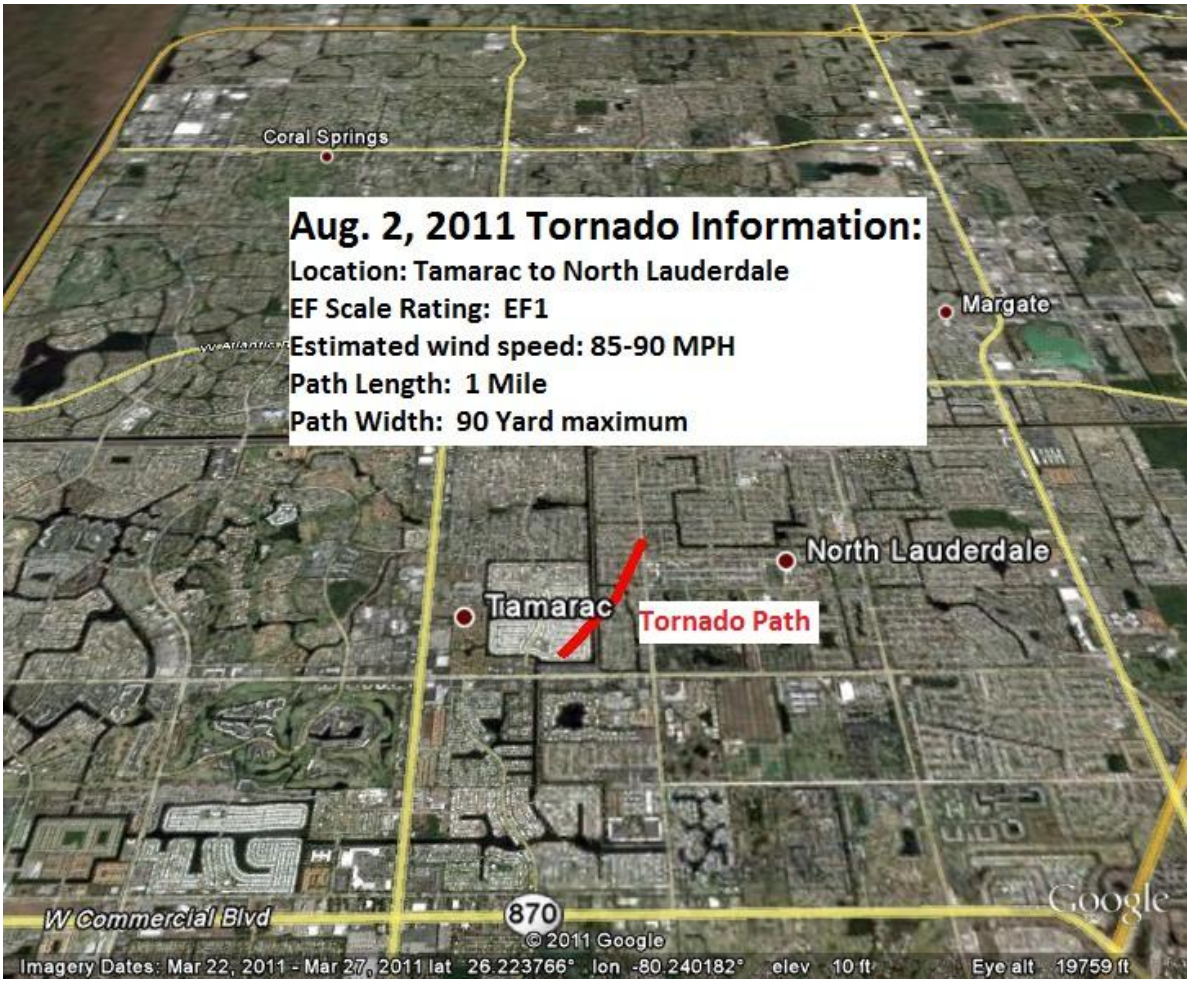
NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

Miami, Florida 33165

http://weather.gov/southflorida

Tamarac-North Lauderdale Tornado

August 2, 2011 – A tornado developed over the western suburbs of the greater Fort Lauderdale metropolitan area at 5:03 PM EDT Tuesday, August 2nd, affecting portions of Tamarac and North Lauderdale.

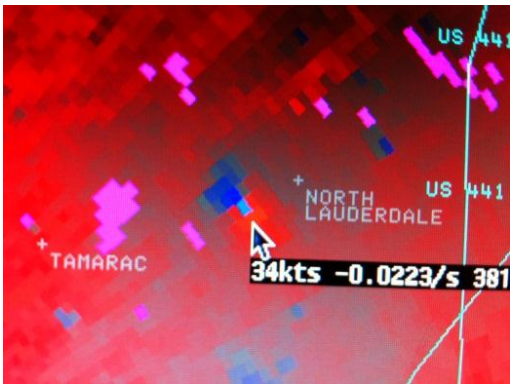


The National Weather Service Miami Forecast Office deployed a storm survey team, consisting of Robert Molleda, Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) and Dan Gregoria, Lead Forecaster. The team assessed the tornado damage intensity and path.

In the picture: Robert Molleda, NWS Miami WCM being interviewed by local media about the tornado while on the storm survey

It was determined that the tornado had a maximum wind speed of 90 MPH which has a rating of EF1 on the Enhance Fujita Scale. This rating is on the low end of the scale, which rates tornado strength from EF0 to EF5. Most of the damage associated with this tornado was EF0 rated, with isolated EF1 damage.

Photo of the tornado, courtesy of Dee Nevaras, Skywarn Spotter



Tornadic circulation as seen on the Ft. Lauderdale Terminal Doppler Radar at 5:03 PM EDT (Base SRM data).The blue and red adjacent to each other depicts the tight rotation of the tornado

The tornado tracked across portions of Tamarac and North Lauderdale just north of McNab Road and East of University Drive. The damage path was approximately one mile with a maximum width of 90 yards. Damage was mostly confined to roofing material and trees, with a roof partially peeled off one home and frame windows broken and blown out from a couple of others.

Below are some of the damage pictures taken from this storm survey:

Fortunately, there were no reported injuries associated with this tornado.

Brief meteorological summary: The overall atmospheric environment was not favorable for tornado formation on this day as wind shear, or changing winds with height, was typically low for the summertime in South Florida. However, this tornado developed quickly on the collision of two thunderstorm "outflow boundaries". These boundaries are generated by rain-cooled air spreading out from the downdraft of the thunderstorms. When thunderstorm outflow boundaries collide, they can generate enough "spin" and lift to cause the formation of a tornado…and such was the case on this day.

Composed by Dan Gregoria, Lead Forecaster