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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHARLESTON SC

508 PM EST FRI FEB 5 2016

...TORNADO CONFIRMED NEAR HINESVILLE IN LIBERTY COUNTY GEORGIA...

LOCATION...HINESVILLE IN LIBERTY COUNTY GEORGIA

DATE...02/03/16

ESTIMATED TIME...5 PM EST

MAXIMUM EF-SCALE RATING...EF1

ESTIMATED MAXIMUM WIND SPEED...105-110 MPH

MAXIMUM PATH WIDTH...300 YARDS

PATH LENGTH...5.7 MILES

BEGINNING LAT/LON...31.87/81.63

ENDING LAT/LON...31.92/81.56

* 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 CHARLESTON SC HAS CONFIRMED A TORNADO AT FORT STEWART IN LIBERTY COUNTY GEORGIA ON 02/03/16.

A TORNADO BEGAN NEAR GATE 7 OF THE FORT STEWART BASE COMPLEX... LIKELY NEAR EF0 STRENGTH. THE TORNADO MOVED NORTHEAST AT APPROXIMATELY 35 MPH THROUGH THE CENTER OF THE BASE. MUCH OF THE DAMAGE THROUGHOUT THE BASE WAS EF0 TO HIGH END EF1. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE STARTED AT THE TAYLORS CREEK GOLF COURSE...THEN STRETCHED EAST-NORTHEAST THROUGH A SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD TO DIAMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. SEVERAL LARGE PINE TREES WERE UPROOTED AND/OR SNAPPED THROUGHOUT THE GOLF COURSE AND NEIGHBORHOOD AREA. APPROXIMATELY 6 TO 10 HOMES WERE HEAVILY DAMAGED IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD DUE TO LARGE PINE TREES FALLING ON THEM. ONE HOME HAD NEARLY 75 PERCENT OF THE ROOF REMOVED... BUT THE ROOF WAS NOT STRAPPED DOWN TO THE WALLS...WHICH KEPT THE STRENGTH RATING TO EF1.

THREE CARS WERE ROLLED OVER OR MOVED APPROXIMATELY 20 FEET IN THE PARKING LOT OF DIAMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. THE SCHOOL HAD ROOF DAMAGE ON ONE CORNER OF THE GYMNASIUM. AS THE TORNADO CONTINUED TO MOVE NORTHEAST IT SNAPPED MANY TREES AND DOWNED POWER LINES ALONG HERO ROAD...NEAR EISENHOWER VILLAGE. AFTER THIS POINT...THE TORNADO CONTINUED NORTHEAST INTO A HEAVILY WOODED AREA WITH SPORADIC SNAPPED TREES AND DOWNED LIMBS UNTIL LIFTING NEAR HIGHWAY 144. THE TORNADO LASTED APPROXIMATELY 10 TO 12 MINUTES BEFORE DISSIPATING AT HIGHWAY 144.

TOTAL DAMAGE REPORTED ALONG THE PATH OF THE TORNADO INCLUDED APPROXIMATELY 42 HOMES...150 TO 200 VEHICLES...AND 8 UNIT FACILITIES WITHIN OR NEAR FORT STEWART AREA.

THIS INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT WEATHER.GOV/CHS.

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

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.

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DPB/RFM