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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WILMINGTON NC  
820 PM EDT SUN MAR 16 2008

...SUMMARY OF STORM SURVEYS FOR THE MARCH 15TH 2008 TORNADO  
OUTBREAK...

HORRY COUNTY...TORNADO NEAR AYNOR SC...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN WILMINGTON HAS CONFIRMED A EF0  
TORNADO IN HORRY COUNTY THAT TOUCHDOWN BRIEFLY AT 713 PM ON SATURDAY  
EVENING NEAR AYNOR. THE TORNADO WAS ONLY 25 YARDS WIDE AND HAD A  
PATH OF ABOUT 1/4 OF A MILE IN LENGTH. MAXIMUM WINDS WERE ESTIMATED  
TO BE AROUND 80 MPH. THE TORNADO WAS ON THE GROUND BRIEFLY BEFORE  
LIFTING UP AND DISSIPATING. DAMAGE WAS CONFINED TO A MOBILE HOME AND  
A CAR PORT THAT WAS DESTROYED RESULTING IN SUBSEQUENT DAMAGE TO  
POWER LINES AND TREES. THE TORNADO WAS LOCATED NEAR ROUTE 501 AND  
319 NEAR AYNOR. THE TORNADO WAS MOVING TO THE EAST NORTHEAST BEFORE  
IT DISSIPATED.

PENDER COUNTY...INCLUDING THE HAMPSTEAD NC TORNADO...

THERE WERE TWO AREAS OF CONCERN THAT WERE INVESTIGATED. THE FIRST  
AREA WAS LOCATED ABOUT 1 MILE NORTHWEST OF THE TOWN OF ROCKY POINT  
IN THE CEDAR GROVE MOBILE HOME PARK. THERE WERE FIVE MOBILE HOMES  
THAT SUSTAINED DAMAGED DUE TO STRAIGHT-LINE WINDS THAT APPROACHED 90  
TO 95 MPH. PINE TREES WERE BLOWN DOWN AND SNAPPED OFF WITH DEBRIS  
DAMAGING MOST OF THE MOBILE HOMES...TWO OF THE HOMES WERE BLOWN OFF  
THEIR FOUNDATIONS AND SUSTAINED MAJOR DAMAGE. THE PATH OF DAMAGE  
EXTENDED ABOUT 100 YARDS WIDE AND ABOUT 300 YARDS LONG.

THE SECOND AREA OF CONCERN WAS IN THE TOWN OF HAMPSTEAD WHERE THE  
DAMAGE WAS CAUSED BY A TORNADO WITH WINDS UP TO 110 MPH IN CERTAIN  
AREAS. THE TORNADO WAS RATED AS AN EF1...BUT FOR MOST OF THE PATH  
THE TORNADO WAS RATED AT EF0. THE PATH EXTENDED FROM ABOUT 100 YARDS  
SOUTHWEST OF HIGHWAY 210 AND US ROUTE 17 AND CONTINUED FOR 2 MILES  
TO THE NORTHEAST WITH A MAXIMUM WIDTH OF 100 YARDS. THE TWO HARDEST  
HIT AREAS WHERE THE TORNADO WAS RATED AS A EF1 WAS AT THE  
INTERSECTION OF PANSY LANE AND PEANUT ROAD WHERE SEVERAL BUSINESS  
AND HOMES SUSTAINED DAMAGE. THE SECOND AREA WAS ABOUT 1 MILE AWAY  
OFF OF LOBLOLLY ROAD...WHERE SEVERAL HOMES SUSTAINED DAMAGED AND  
NUMEROUS TREES WERE BLOWN DOWN. THE TORNADO THEN LIFTED UP AND  
SKIPPED FOR ANOTHER 1/2 MILE BEFORE DISSIPATING NEAR RAVINWOODS  
ROAD. ALTHOUGH THE PATH WAS 2 MILES IN LENGTH THE TORNADO FREQUENTLY  
LIFTED BACK UP TO TREE TOP LEVEL AND CAUSED TOPS OF TREES TO SNAP  
OFF WITH LITTLE DAMAGE TO HOMES OR BUSINESSES.

DILLON COUNTY...LATTA SC TORNADO...

AN EF0 WITH MAXIMUM WINDS OF 75 MPH DEVELOPED JUST SOUTH OF LATTA,  
SC NEAR HIGHWAY 301 AROUND 548 PM EDT AND ENDED NEAR JOHNSON RD. THE  
TORNADO MOVED EAST ACROSS SOUTHERN LATTA SC WITH A MAXIMUM DAMAGE  
WIDTH OF 75 YARDS AND PATH LENGTH OF 1.4 MILES. THE MOST EXTREME

DAMAGE OBSERVED WITH THIS TORNADO OCCURRED NEAR WILLIS STREET WHERE A LARGE TREE FELL ON A HOME. OTHERWISE THERE WAS TREE DAMAGE CONSISTENT WITH AN EF0 TORNADO. MANY OTHER DOWNED TREES WERE OBSERVED IN THE AREA WEST AND SOUTH OF THE TORNADO INDICATIVE OF STRAIGHT LINE WIND DAMAGE.

FLORENCE COUNTY...TORNADO SOUTH OF TIMMONSVILLE SC...

AN EF1 WITH MAXIMUM WINDS OF 105 MPH DEVELOPED JUST SOUTHEAST OF CARTERSVILLE, SC NEAR CRAWFISH POND RD. AND CARTERSVILLE HIGHWAY AROUND 625 PM EDT. THE TORNADO MOVED EAST ACROSS CHENEY GROVE RD. NEAR ROSE LANE WHERE IT FIRST REACHED EF1 STATUS (100 MPH). THE TORNADO WEAKENED TO EF0 AS IT CROSSED THUNDER RD, AND THEN RE-INTENSIFIED TO EF1 NEAR CALE YARBOROUGH HWY AND I-95. THE TORNADO CROSSED I-95 WITH EF0 DAMAGE NOTED NEAR HILL RD. THE TORNADO PEAKED (105 MPH) ALONG JOHN PAUL RD BETWEEN CENTER RD. AND LANGSTON ROAD. FINALLY, AFTER A 14 MILE PATH LENGTH THE TORNADO DISSIPATED NEAR MCCAIN RD. AND OLANTA HIGHWAY JUST WEST OF EFFINGHAM. THE TORNADO HAD A MAXIMUM DAMAGE WIDTH OF 100 YARDS AND RESULTED IN 3 MINOR INJURIES. A THREE YEAR OLD HAD TO BE EXTRICATED FROM A STRUCTURE. A HORSE AND COW WERE KILLED BY THE TORNADO. IN ADDITION, THERE WAS STRONG INDICATION OF STRAIGHT-LINE WIND TREE DAMAGE SOUTH OF THE TORNADO TRACK.

WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY...TORNADO SOUTH OF GREELEYVILLE SC AND NEAR TRIO SC...

TWO TORNADOES DEVELOPED IN WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY. THE FIRST TORNADO STRENGTHENED TO AN EF1 WITH 105 MPH WINDS ALONG HIGHWAY 375 SOUTH OF GREELEYVILLE, SC AROUND 717 PM EDT. THE TORNADO MOVED EAST AND HAD A PATH LENGTH OF THIS TORNADO WAS 1.5 MILES. THE MAXIMUM DAMAGE WIDTH WAS 75 YARDS. THIS TORNADO CAUSED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO LARGE HARDWOOD TREES ALONG PORTIONS OF HIGHWAY 375, GENERALLY WEST OF HIGHWAY 52. SPORADIC AREAS OF STRAIGHT-LINE WIND DAMAGE WERE OBSERVED FROM EAST OF HIGHWAY 52 TO NEAR TRIO, SC.

THE SECOND TORNADO CAUSED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO STRUCTURES IN THE TRIO AREA. THE EF1 TORNADO WITH MAXIMUM WINDS OF 100 MPH DEVELOPED NEAR STEADFAST RD. AROUND 736 PM EDT, WHERE MOST OF THE DAMAGE WAS OBSERVED. THERE WERE NO INJURIES OR FATALITIES WITH THIS TORNADO. THE TORNADO MOVED EAST NORTHEAST AND HAD A PATH LENGTH OF. THE TORNADO DISSIPATED JUST EAST OF JUMPIN RUN ROAD WITH A PATH LENGTH OF 3 MILES. THE MAXIMUM DAMAGE WIDTH WAS 75 YARDS.

OVERALL, IN WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY 35 HOMES RECEIVED DAMAGE, SEVEN SUFFERED MAJOR DAMAGE, AND 5 WERE COMPLETELY DESTROYED.

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