

Public Information Statement

Issued by NWS Wilmington, NC

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[Public Information Statement](#)

National Weather Service Wilmington [NC](#)
129 PM EST Fri Feb 17 2017

...[Tornado](#) Confirmed Near Longwood in Brunswick County North Carolina...

Location...Near Longwood in Brunswick County North Carolina
Date...February 15 2017
Estimated Time...1153 AM EST until 1158 AM EST
Maximum EF-Scale Rating...EF-1
Estimated Maximum [Wind Speed](#)...90 mph
Maximum Path Width...60 yards
Path Length...3.21 miles
Initial Touchdown...34.0060N / -78.6088W
[Tornado](#) Lifted...34.009N / -78.5534W
* 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 Wilmington [NC](#) has confirmed a [tornado](#) near Longwood in Brunswick County North Carolina on February 15 2017.

The survey team found initial [tornado](#) damage to trees along a hunting trail south of Pireway Rd NW west of the town of Longwood, [NC](#). The [tornado](#) tracked eastward across inaccessible portions of the forest before emerging near the intersection of Etheridge Rd and Ash-Little River Rd NW where it snapped some trees and caused significant roof damage to a home in the area. The [tornado](#) continued quickly east on the north side of Etheridge Rd causing dozens of snapped pine trees. The [tornado](#) crossed Etheridge Rd near Gwynn Rd NW and moved into another area of pine trees toppling dozens of them. It damaged a poorly constructed barn between Gwynn Rd NW and Ward Rd NW as it continued off to the east. The [tornado](#) then caused damage to vehicles near Ward Rd NW and Quaker Rd NW along with minor roof damage to the first home on Quaker Rd NW. The [tornado](#) then lifted south of Etheridge Rd between Ward Rd NW and Cephus Trl NW.

The survey team also found evidence of 60 to 70 mph [microburst](#) winds on the north side of Shallotte, [NC](#) especially near the Shallotte Fire Training Center. The damage at this location occurred over a broad but short swath. There was damage observed to a large number of vinyl fences in the community near the training center.

This information can also be found on our website at weather.gov/ILM.

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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SRP/CRM