



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



April 2002

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons	Estimated Damage	Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property Crops

ATLANTIC NORTH

ANZ531 **Chesapeake Bay Pooles Is To Sandy Pt Md**
5 W Riviera Beach **18** **1501EST** **0** **0** **Marine Tstm Wind (G45)**
 A wind gust of 45 knots was recorded at BWI Airport.

ANZ535 **Tidal Potomac Key Bridge To Indian Hd Md**
Rnld Reagan Natl Arpt **18** **1535EST** **0** **0** **Marine Tstm Wind (G38)**

ANZ532 **Chesapeake Bay Sandy Pt To N Beach Md**
4 SE Annapolis **18** **1700EST** **0** **0** **Marine Tstm Wind (G35)**
 A wind gust of 35 knots was recorded at Thomas Point Lighthouse.

Scattered thunderstorms with winds up to 45 knots and frequent lightning moved east across the northern Tidal Potomac waters and the Chesapeake Bay north of North Beach between 4 and 6 PM on the 18th.

ANZ533 **Chesapeake Bay N Beach To Drum Pt Md**
4 NW Cove Pt to **28** **1843EST**
5 NE Cove Pt **1854EST** **0** **0** **Waterspout**



A picture of the tornado off Long Beach in Calvert County, Maryland. (photo by Ted L. Dutcher)

A tornado that pushed offshore between Port Republic and St. Leonard on the western shore of the bay dissipated, but not before spawning a second tornado just north of Calvert Cliffs Power Plant. The second tornado crossed the Chesapeake Bay and made landfall 4 miles south of Taylors Island on the eastern shore. See the Calvert County, Maryland tornado entry for more information.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

District Of Columbia
Northwest Portion to **19** **1430EST**
Northeast Portion **1435EST** **0** **3** **500K** **Thunderstorm Wind**

Over 80 trees were downed onto roads, homes, cars, and power lines citywide. One tree fell onto a van, killing a 51-year-old man and injuring three others.

District Of Columbia
1 W Brookland **19** **1433EST** **1** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind (G61)^M**



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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

A wind gust of 70 MPH was recorded at Children's Hospital. The event time was estimated. M51VE

A thunderstorm with hail and high winds moved through the District of Columbia during the afternoon of the 19th. Winds gusted as high as 70 MPH and at least 82 trees were downed across the city. Most of the damage was reported in the northern sections of town. Trees fell onto power lines, 10 cars, 4 homes, and several roads. A large tree, which was believed to have been struck by lightning because the roots were charred, fell onto a vehicle that was traveling through the intersection of 12th and Shepard streets NE. A 51-year-old man in the back seat of the van was killed and three other passengers, one woman and two men, sustained minor injuries. Nearly 6000 customers lost power as a direct result of the storm.

MARYLAND, Central

Harford County

North Portion

18	1450EST				0	0	400K		Lightning
	1530EST								

Two homes were damaged by a lightning fire.

Anne Arundel County

Ferndale

18	1510EST				0	0	40K		Lightning
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A lightning strike caused 3 fires at a home.

Anne Arundel County

Countywide

18	1610EST				0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind
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Trees and wires were downed.

Anne Arundel County

Countywide

18	1630EST				0	0			Flash Flood
	1930EST								

Up to 5 inches of rain flooded several roads and basements.

Anne Arundel County

Arnold

18	1705EST				0	0	70K		Lightning
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A lightning fire severely damaged the roof of a home

Anne Arundel County

Baltimore Washington

18	1900EST				0	0	20K		Thunderstorm Wind
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High winds blew out the back brick wall of an industrial building. The event time was estimated.

Scattered thunderstorms developed during the early afternoon of the 18th across Central Maryland. Some of the storms produced damaging winds, very heavy downpours, and frequent lightning. In Anne Arundel County, lightning struck at least 10 homes, caused 35,000 power outages, and started five brush fires. A home sustained major damage in Arnold after lightning struck the metal cap of a chimney and started the roof on fire. In Glen Burnie, a lightning strike caused 3 fires on all three levels of a home on Vista Ave. High winds blew through open roll-up doors on the front of an industrial building in Hanover and the resulting pressure blew out a portion of a concrete wall on the back of the structure. Pieces of the wall were blown up to 40 feet away, and debris damaged cars in the parking lot. A few people inside the structure were blown to the ground by the wind. Nearby at BWI Airport, a gust of 52 MPH was recorded. High winds were also responsible for downing 20 electrical wires and for pushing a tree onto a house. Marble sized hail was reported in Odenton. Heavy downpours flooded 20 basements and numerous roads were covered in water. Route 424 and Crain Highway were flooded. Rainfall reports included 5.23 inches in Crofton, nearly 4 inches in Severna Park, 3.50 inches near Benfield, and 2.83 inches at Millersville. In Harford County, tow homes were damaged by fires resulting from lightning strikes. A home on Phillips Mill Road sustained damage to outer walls after lightning struck. On Old Rocks Road, lightning struck a tree and traveled underground along electrical wiring into a home and a barn. The bolt blew siding off the home, damaged the ceiling of the basement, and caused electrical damage to the barn.



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MARYLAND, Central

Prince George'S County

Greenbelt to Lanham	19	1420EST 1425EST			0	0			Hail(1.00)
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Dime to quarter sized hail fell.

Prince George'S County

Greenbelt	19	1420EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
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A wind gust of 60 MPH was estimated.

A thunderstorm with large hail and high winds moved through Prince George's County during the afternoon of the 19th. In Greenbelt, dime to nickel sized hail and 60 MPH winds were reported. Dime to quarter sized hail fell in Lanham. Pea sized hail was noted in Glen Burnie, Glenn Dale, and Parkville. About 2200 customers lost power as a direct result of the storm.

Montgomery County

Rockville	21	2330EST			0	0	250K		Lightning
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Lightning struck a townhouse around 12:30 AM EDT on the 22nd.

A late night thunderstorm caused a fire at a townhouse on North Adams Street which heavily damaged the structure. Lightning struck the building and started a fire that caused \$250,000 damage which included the destruction of the directly affected unit and damage to two adjoining townhomes. One firefighter suffered a leg injury while attempting to douse the blaze and a woman neighbor suffered cardiac arrest at the scene.

Charles County

Indian Head	28	1755EST			0	0			Hail(1.75)
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Golf ball sized hail fell.

Charles County

2 SE Bryans Road	28	1756EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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Penny sized hail fell.

Charles County

Rison to Benedict	28	1756EST 1830EST	24	650	1	122	114M		Tornado (F4)
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MARYLAND, Central

Top row from left to right: Picture of tornado off Long Beach shoreline, house completely destroyed by tornado in development east of La Plata where one person was killed, house that sustained minor damage in Calvert County. Middle row from center to right: Truck with metal panel through front window at intersection of Route 301 and 6 in downtown La Plata, what's left of a restaurant at the intersection of Route 301 and 6. Bottom row from left to right: picture of CD size hail that fell in Waldorf, another damaged home in La Plata, a picture taken from a plane of the tornado's path through La Plata.

A destructive tornado crossed the county from just north of Rison, through La Plata, to Benedict before moving into Calvert County. M51PH

Charles County

La Plata	28	1802EST 1806EST	3	100	0	0	1M		Tornado (F2)
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A second tornado briefly touched down just north of downtown La Plata.

Charles County

2 N La Plata	28	1805EST			0	0			Hail(3.00)
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Slightly larger than baseball sized hail fell

Charles County

2 N La Plata	28	1805EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G70)
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A spotter estimated a wind gust of 80 MPH from the northwest.

Charles County

Waldorf	28	1805EST			0	0			Hail(1.00)
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Dime to quarter sized hail was reported.

Charles County

La Plata	28	1806EST			0	0			Hail(4.50)
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Golf ball to CD sized hail was observed.

Charles County

3 SE Waldorf	28	1807EST			0	0			Hail(2.00)
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Hen egg sized hail fell.

Charles County

Bryantown	28	1810EST			0	0			Hail(2.75)
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Baseball sized hail was reported.

St. Mary'S County

Charlotte Hall	28	1815EST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
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Trees were downed.

Charles County

Patuxent	28	1820EST			0	0			Hail(2.75)
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Baseball sized hail covered the ground, dented cars, and broke windows.

Calvert County

1 N Bowens	28	1825EST			0	0			Hail(1.75)
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Golf ball sized hail fell on Adelina Road about a mile north of the tornado's path.

Calvert County

2 W Bowens to 1 N St Leonard	28	1831EST 1849EST	14	200	2	0	10M		Tornado (F2)
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A strong tornado crossed the Patuxent River from Charles County and moved east through central Calvert County. It tracked between Patuxent View and Western Shore Estates before moving onto the Chesapeake Bay. M68PH, F65FH

Calvert County

Prince Frederick	28	1835EST			0	0			Hail(1.75)
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Golf ball sized hail was reported.

Calvert County

Long Beach to 5 E Long Beach	28	1842EST 1849EST	5	50	0	0	5K		Tornado (F1)
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A tornado developed on the Long Beach shoreline just north of Calvert Cliffs power plant and moved offshore.



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MARYLAND, Central

A massive tornadic storm tore through Central Charles and Calvert Counties between 7 and 8 PM EDT on the 28th. The tornadoes it produced left a 64 mile path of destruction ranging from F1 to F4 damage. Five people were killed, 122 were injured, and over \$115 million in damage was reported. The tornadoes were spawned from a supercell thunderstorm that crossed the Potomac River from Prince William County. Up to 10 miles north of the path of the tornado, large hail up to 4.5 inches in diameter fell. Debris from the tornado was found as far away as southern Delaware. Wind damage was also reported near the path of the storm.

Across Charles County, 638 homes were damaged, 100 homes were destroyed, 143 businesses (mainly in downtown La Plata) were damaged, and 49 businesses were destroyed. Countless trees and agricultural buildings were downed along the rural path of the storm. Three people were killed and at least 120 people were injured countywide, 12 critically. A 51-year-old man was killed and his wife was critically injured when their house under construction on Hawkins Gate Road, about 5 miles east of La Plata, collapsed. A 54-year-old man died in his car from an apparent heart attack at the intersection of Route 301 and Route 6 in downtown La Plata. The third victim, a 72-year-old woman, died of a heart attack in Waldorf after being frightened by the tornado.

The tornado first touched down on the eastern edge of General Smallwood State Park just north of Rison. It pushed east-southeast and passed just south of Pisgah where it grew to F2 strength. The tornado moved through Mount Pisgah and damaged homes on Ripley Road between Ripley and Garden Estates. The twister continued to move east through rural lands south of Hawthorne Road (Route 255) passing just north of the community of Graystone. Next, it moved through the communities of Habre de Venture, Longmeade, Clamber Hill, Hawthorne Manor, and Hillendale about 3 miles west of downtown La Plata. The tornado, now F3 strength, hit the western portion of La Plata next, moving directly through the neighborhoods of Valley View, Morgan's Ridge, Quailwood, and Haldane. The tornado, now F4 strength, continued east into the downtown area where it crossed through the intersection of Route 301 and 6. Damage was found on either side of Route 6 with the most severe devastation occurring on the south side of the highway. The downtown business district was nearly wiped out after 65% of the buildings were either heavily damaged or destroyed. The 125-foot city water tower was also downed. The tornado continued its trek southeast of the downtown hospital into the northern portion of Clarks Run, across Route 6, and into the community of Ellenwood. The F4 tornado moved east of La Plata into the southern portion of Brynwood Farm Estates, then east across the Zekiah Swamp. Several homes at the end of Hawkins Gate Road were completely destroyed, and this was the location of one fatality and numerous injuries. Next, the tornado crossed Olivers Shop Road just north of the intersection of Route 231. It continued east through rural lands until it intersected Route 5 at Homeland Drive just south of Hughesville. East of Homeland Drive, it severely damaged the Girl Scout facility off Scout Camp Road. The tornado tracked east-southeast toward Benedict, remaining just south of Route 231 and weakening to F2 strength. It struck Colonial Lane and a home south of Benedict before crossing the river into Calvert County just south of the bridge.

In Calvert County, the tornado first struck the community of Patuxent View just south of Route 231 at F2 strength. Over half of the homes in this development were damaged. One home with no foundation or anchoring just east of Patuxent View off Hallowing Point Road was picked up and thrown 80 feet into a culvert. A 68-year-old man and his 65-year-old wife who were taking shelter in the house were killed. The twister continued eastward along Sixes Road to the intersection of Adelina Road. Several homes and barns were damaged. From there it pushed east through the communities of Boyds Farm, Mutual Estates, and Chippingwood, where it damaged more property. It crossed Route 2/4 and 765 just north of St. Leonard, downing trees and it went. Finally, it crossed the Western Shores Estates development at F1 strength before it moved offshore. Another tornado formed on the Long Beach shoreline just north of Calvert Cliffs Power Plant. It downed trees before moving offshore. This tornado grew in strength as it crossed the bay and struck Dorchester County on the eastern shore just south of Taylor's Island. Across the county, 125 homes were damaged and 10 were destroyed, mainly in the Brownsville and Hallowing Point areas. County officials collected over 300 tons of downed trees and storm debris.

VIRGINIA, North

Greene County

Countywide	18	1230EST 1430EST	0	0			Lightning
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Three wildfires, a shed fire, and a tree fire were started by lightning.

Orange County

Orange	18	1420EST	0	0	0.50K		Lightning
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Lightning caused an attic fire in a 4-unit apartment building.

Fredericksburg (C)

Fredericksburg	18	1430EST 1530EST	0	0			Heavy Rain
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Heavy downpours flooded roads.

Spotsylvania County

Countywide	18	1430EST 1530EST	0	0	75K		Lightning
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VIRGINIA, North

Six homes were damaged by lightning.

Spotsylvania County Countywide

18	1435EST 1450EST				0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind
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Scattered trees were downed.

Fredericksburg (C) Fredericksburg

18	1440EST				0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind
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Trees and power lines were downed onto roads.

Alexandria (C) Alexandria

18	1548EST				0	0	1K		Lightning
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Lightning started a fire which damaged the roof of an apartment building.

Scattered thunderstorms developed during the early afternoon across Northern Virginia. Some of the storms produced damaging winds, very heavy downpours, and frequent lightning. In Greene County, a handful of lightning fires were reported. A shed was struck and caught fire on Celt Road in Greene. Along Route 633 in Greene a tree caught on fire after being struck. In addition, lightning struck Brokenback Mountain and caused a 1 acre brush fire. In Albemarle County, lightning started at least 7 brush fire. In Orange County, lightning started an attic fire at a 4-unit apartment building on Oakbrook Drive in Orange. In Spotsylvania County, a home in Paytes was heavily damaged by a lightning fire. A residence on Buchanan Court was damaged by fire after lightning hit a tree and jumped to the gutter of the home. Other lightning strikes caused power outages and damaged a chimney. Heavy downpours flooded roads in Fredericksburg, including River Road which was closed by debris that was deposited on the pavement by rushing water. Pea sized hail was also reported. High winds downed scattered trees and power lines across Spotsylvania County, including a few that fell onto roads in Fredericksburg. In Alexandria, a lightning fire damaged the roof of an apartment building on Duke Street.

Prince William County Southeast Portion

19	1345EST				0	0	0.50K		Thunderstorm Wind
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Two large trees were downed onto Route 619 (Joplin Rd.).

Fairfax County 1 N Ravenwood

19	1407EST				0	0			Hail(0.75)
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Dime sized hail was reported in Seven Corners.

Scattered thunderstorms moved through Fairfax, Prince William, and Arlington Counties during the afternoon of the 19th. These storms produced high winds, heavy downpours, and hail. About 5000 regional customers lost power as a direct result of the storms. In Prince William County, two large tree were downed onto Route 619 (Joplin Rd.) in the southeast portion of the county. In Fairfax County, dime sized hail fell in Seven Corners. In Arlington County, flooding was reported on Interstate 66 where water from Spout Run spilled onto the road.

Highland County Countywide

28	0300EST 0800EST				0	0			Heavy Rain
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Routes 220 and 84 were flooded by heavy rainfall.

Showers and thunderstorms with heavy downpours moved through Highland County during the early morning hours of the 28th. County officials reported flooding on Routes 220 and 84 as the storms moved through. Rainfall totals included 2.40 inches in Mustoe, 2.08 inches in McDowell, 1.80 inches in Back Creek, and 1.76 inches in Monterey.

Fairfax County Oakton

28	0810EST				0	0	1.2M		Lightning
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Lightning started a fire which destroyed an office building.

A thunderstorm which moved through Fairfax County around 9 AM EDT on the 28th caused a lightning strike that started a fire at an office building in Oakton. The structure on Hunter Mill Road was burnt to the ground, resulting in \$1.2 million in damage.



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VIRGINIA, North

Rockingham County

Bernton

28 1541EST 0 0 Hail(0.75)

Dime sized hail was reported.

Shenandoah County

**1 E Quicksburg to
5 E Quicksburg**

28 1555EST 4 75 0 2 1.6M Tornado (F2)



Photo of Shenandoah County tornado moving east after it crossed Interstate 81. (by Joe Stegle)

A tornado injured 2 people, destroyed 4 homes, damaged 56 additional homes and 36 agricultural structures, downed numerous trees, and blew over a tractor-trailer on Interstate 81.

Page County

Rileyville

28 1620EST 0 0 Hail(1.75)

Golf ball sized hail fell

Page County

Stanley

28 1620EST 0 0 1K Thunderstorm Wind

Power lines were downed.

Culpeper County

Norman

28 1700EST 0 0 0.50K Thunderstorm Wind

A tree was downed onto Route 522 near Route 633.

Fauquier County

Fauquier Sulphur Spg

28 1705EST 0 0 Funnel Cloud

A funnel cloud was photographed from a hill near Fauquier Springs.

Fauquier County

5 W Warrenton

28 1706EST 0 0 5K Thunderstorm Wind

A large tree and utility poles were downed onto Harts Mill and Spriggs roads.

Fauquier County

New Baltimore

28 1710EST 0 0 Hail(0.75)

Dime sized hail fell.

Prince William County

Woodbridge

28 1730EST 0 0 Hail(1.00)

Quarter sized hail was reported.



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VIRGINIA, North

Manassas (C)

Manassas	28	1735EST			0	0			Hail(1.00)
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Quarter sized hail fell.

Prince William County

Dale City	28	1735EST			0	0			Hail(1.75)
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Golfball sized hail caused property damage

A long-lived supercell thunderstorm formed over northwest Rockingham County during the afternoon of the 28th. This severe storm moved east at 45 MPH, damaging property all of the way to the Potomac River. This same storm later produced a devastating F4 tornado in La Plata, MD. While the storm moved through North Central Virginia, it produced an F2 tornado in Shenandoah County, a significant funnel cloud in Fauquier County, large hail, heavy downpours, and scattered wind damage.

In Shenandoah County, an F2 tornado touched down just east of Quicksburg near the intersection of Quicksburg Road and Old Bridge Road. The tornado stayed on the ground for 4 miles before it dissipated while moving up the west side of Massanutten Mountain. The twister was estimated to be about 75 yards wide and it caused a total of \$1.6 million in damage. Along the path of the tornado, three residential structures were destroyed, 12 structures were heavily damaged, and 15 had minor damage. Four poultry houses and 15 barns were destroyed. Five poultry houses, two silos, and a mile of fencing was also damaged. On Old Bridge Road, a silo and three barns were damaged. Airborne roof debris and high winds hit a tractor-trailer on I-81 and caused it to flip onto its side. The driver of the tractor-trailer was treated for minor injuries.

The tornado moved across I-81 and Route 11 into the Kay Hill subdivision. Homes were damaged and trees were downed on Lower and Upper Forge Road. A mobile home on Mantz Drive was destroyed. The tornado moved east across Smith Creek to Smith Creek Road and Franwood Lane where it caused significant damage. A two-story home just off Smith Creek Road was severely damaged by debris from a neighbor's 60-foot-high grain silo. A woman inside the structure was treated for bruises. On Franwood Lane, two turkey houses were destroyed and four were severely damaged. One dog that lived on the property was killed and another was injured. A cat was never found. A shed was damaged and work equipment was scattered across the property. At Franwood Farms Airport, 5 people took shelter from the storm in a hangar. A person in the hangar said the walls kept coming closer together as the tornado approached and eventually the roof blew off the building. The tornado also flipped a plane on the landing strip. The tornado's path was visible up to two miles east of Franwood Farms through a path of damaged trees in the forest. The path of tree damage ended as the topography sloped up Massanutten Mountain into George Washington National Forest. In addition, an orchard west of Mt. Jackson just north of the tornado's path, sustained hail damage.

In Rockingham County, dime sized hail fell in Bergton for ten minutes. In Page County, golf ball sized hail fell in Rileyville. Power lines were downed in Stanley. In Culpeper County, a tree was downed onto Route 522 near Route 633 in Norman. In Fauquier County, a funnel cloud was photographed by a meteorologist on a hill near Fauquier Springs. The time series of photos shows the funnel never reaching the ground. High winds downed a large tree and utility poles onto Harts Mill and Spriggs roads about 5 miles west of Warrenton. In New Baltimore, dime sized hail was reported. In Prince William County, quarter sized hail fell in Woodbridge and Manassas. Golf ball sized hail caused property damage in Dale City. A total of 2.20 inches of rain fell in Canova as the storm passed through.



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WEST VIRGINIA, East

WVZ048-055

Grant - Hardy

22 0320EST
23 0600EST

0 0

Flood

The south branch of the Potomac River overflowed its banks in Petersburg.

Heavy rainfall over the headwaters of the south branch of the Potomac River caused the waterway to rise above flood stage in Grant and Hardy Counties. In Petersburg, where flood stage is 10 feet, the river crested at 10.8 feet at 7 AM EDT on the 22nd. It rose above flood stage on the 22nd at 3:20 AM and dropped below flood stage at 11:15 AM. In Springfield, where flood stage is 15 feet, the river crested at 17.49 feet at 1 AM on the 23rd. The river rose above flood stage at 4:30 PM on the 22nd and dropped below flood stage at 6 AM on the 23rd.

Grant County
Lahmansville

28 1611EST

0 0 0.50K

Thunderstorm Wind

A power pole was downed.

Morgan County
Berkeley Spgs

28 1620EST

0 0 0.50K

Thunderstorm Wind

A tree fell onto a power line at a mobile home park.

Berkeley County
Gerrardstown

28 1645EST

0 0 0.50K

Thunderstorm Wind

A tree was downed.

Berkeley County
Martinsburg

28 1645EST

0 0 1K

Thunderstorm Wind

A utility pole was partially lifted out of the ground

Jefferson County
Countywide

28 1700EST

0 0 5K

Thunderstorm Wind

Numerous trees were downed.

Jefferson County
Rippon

28 1700EST

0 0 20K

Thunderstorm Wind

High winds ripped the roof off a large hay barn.

Thunderstorms with high winds moved through the Eastern Panhandle between 5 and 7 PM EDT on the 28th. In Grant County, a power pole was downed in Lahmansville. Hail was reported in Mt. Storm. In Morgan County, a tree fell onto a power line in the McCumbee Mobile Home Park in Berkeley Springs. In Berkeley County, a tree was downed in the Gerrardstown area. In Martinsburg, a utility pole was lifted partially out of the ground behind Berkeley Heights Elementary School. In Jefferson County, numerous trees were downed. The roof of a large hay barn was blown off in Rippon.