



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



April 1998

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NONE REPORTED.

MARYLAND, Central

Carroll County									
Winfield	01	1935EST			0	0	4K		Thunderstorm Wind
Montgomery County									
Damascus	01	1958EST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Harford County									
Countywide	01	2035EST			0	0	25K		Lightning
Prince George'S County									
Capitol Hgts	01	2059EST			0	0	10K		Thunderstorm Wind
Anne Arundel County									
Crofton	01	2115EST			0	1	20K		Lightning

Unstable air ahead of a strong cold front aided the formation of thunderstorm bands, some which became severe, during the evening of the 1st. Well-developed storms produced near-severe wind gusts and hail. Wind damage occurred in the Winfield/Taylorville section of Carroll Co along the gust front. Residents noted minor damage, including a trampoline that was picked up and deposited 600 feet downwind; a baby goat house, weighing 200 pounds, picked up and deposited 200 feet downstream; a few downed trees, and minor damage to cyclone fences.

A large tree was blown onto a home in Boulevard Heights (Prince George's Co - near Capitol Heights), causing substantial structural damage. Lightning strikes were prevalent with the thunderstorms. Three homes were struck in Harford Co, as was one transformer. Several lightning strikes in Anne Arundel Co injured one person and set a home on fire. Lastly, one half to three-quarter inch diameter hail fell in western Montgomery Co.

Frederick County									
Braddock Hgts	17	1445EST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Anne Arundel County									
Crofton	17	1645EST 1650EST			0	0	5K		Hail (2.00)
Prince George'S County									
Bowie	17	1650EST			0	0	2K		Hail (1.75)

Scattered strong to severe thunderstorms moved across the northern and eastern suburbs of Washington, DC, dropping hail of various sizes and producing numerous funnel clouds but no tornadoes. An intense storm developed in Prince George's Co, then moved into western Anne Arundel Co. Hail varying from nickel (0.88) to 2 inches in diameter fell between Bowie and Crofton. Damage of unknown extent was noted in Crofton.

Funnel clouds were sighted throughout central Maryland, including Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Carroll, and Baltimore Cos. Isolated power outages were noted - mainly from concentrated lightning strikes.

VIRGINIA, North

Prince William County									
North Portion	01	1315EST			0	0	10K		Thunderstorm Wind
Fauquier County									
Broad Run	01	1855EST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Prince William County									
Haymarket	01	1900EST 1910EST			0	0	2K		Hail (1.75)
Fairfax County									
Baileys Xrds	01	2041EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Arlington County									
Arlington	01	2045EST			0	0	3K		Lightning



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VIRGINIA, North

Unstable air ahead of a strong cold front aided the formation of thunderstorm bands, some which became severe, during the evening of the 1st. Well-developed storms produced near-severe wind gusts and hail. The largest hail fell in Haymarket (golf ball sized); other reports of hail were received from Fauquier, Albemarle, and Loudoun Cos.

One storm during the afternoon produced a small area of straight-line wind damage in Manassas Park (Prince William Co). A portion of the gymnasium roof at Manassas Park High School was lifted slightly. At least 7 cars had window damage; one car was moved several feet from its original space. A nearby satellite dish sustained serious damage. No other damage was reported to local officials in the area.

An estimated wind gust of at least 58 mph was noted in Bailey's Crossroads. Lightning knocked out power to portions of Virginia, including Arlington and Fairfax Cos.

Prince William County

Dale City

06 1245EST 0 0 Dust Devil

Daytime heating in a relatively unstable surface layer produced a small dust devil. The swirl tossed a canopy tent eight stories into the air before depositing it in some trees several hundred feet away. A portable soccer shelter was tossed into a small group of players sitting on stadium bleachers before it was destroyed. None of the players was hurt.

Staunton (C)

Staunton

09 1215EST 0 0 Hail (0.75)

A storm spotter in Staunton reported 3/4 inch diameter hail covering the ground.

VAZ025

Augusta

19 1142EST 0 0 Dense Fog

Steady rain and dense fog along Interstate 64 proved to be a volatile mix for drivers. At least one motorist, travelling at a high rate of speed given the conditions, caused a chain-reaction accident which ultimately involved 65 vehicles and sent 40 persons to the hospital. Nearly all the injuries were minor; cuts, scrapes, and bruises. The eastbound lanes remained closed for 5 hours, creating a backup extending for 9 miles.

WEST VIRGINIA, East

Pendleton County

Riverton

25 1000EST 0 0 1K Dust Devil

A swirl of wind, coming down nearby mountains in a clear sky, caused minor damage at a residence in the Seneca Rocks/Riverton section of Pendleton Co. Damage included a lock box which was picked up, siding pulled out and pushed in again, and under-paneling which was sucked out of the home. Some of the damage was noted downwind of the residence.