

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RALEIGH NC
1232 PM EDT FRI APR 29 2016

MICROBURST/STRAIGHT LINE WIND DAMAGE ON APRIL 28, 2016

Numerous occurrences of microburst/straight line wind damage were noted across central North Carolina from the severe storms that moved through the area during the afternoon and evening of April 28, 2016. While mid-level rotation was noted with several of the large hail-producing storms, NWS Raleigh Doppler radar did not indicate any low level rotation with the storm cells that caused the various occurrences of wind damage. In addition, eyewitness descriptions and photos also support the determination that microburst/straight line wind was the cause of the wind damage that occurred across our area. As such, at this time, NWS Raleigh staff is not planning to conduct storm surveys related to this event.

For reference, a microburst is a convective downdraft with an affected outflow area of less than 2.5 miles wide and peak winds lasting less than 5 minutes. Microbursts may induce dangerous horizontal and vertical wind shears, which can adversely affect aircraft performance and cause property damage. Straight-line winds are generally any wind that is not associated with rotation, used mainly to differentiate them from tornadic winds.

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