

Tornado Report

North Fort Myers, FL

June 8th, 2008

Approximate Time of Event: 4:45pm EDT to ~5:45pm EDT

Location: North Fort Myers, FL

Tornado Wind Rating: High end EF(0) with pockets of low EF(1) damage

Wind Speed estimates: 75-100 mph

Damage Survey Team:

TBW Lead Forecasters Nick Petro, Mike Cantin and student trainee Andrew Kennedy

Staff Operations Timeline:

5:04pm EDT issued SPSTBW for all of Lee County and other surrounding counties (valid through 5:45pm EDT).

5:06pm EDT received a call from Lee County Assistant EM "J" Stakenburg and public of tornado damage being reported in North Fort Myers.

5:10pm EDT TORTBW issued for northern Lee County (valid through 5:45pm EDT).

5:21pm EDT SVSTBW issued to continue the tornado warning and to relay a report of a funnel cloud.

5:38pm EDT SVSTBW issued to announce the expiration of the TORTBW at 5:45pm EDT.

LSRTBW:

2 LSR products issued. First issued at 5:45pm EDT relayed a report of tornado damage in North Fort Myers at 5:13pm EDT when tornado was in the vicinity of Western Acres. Second LSR relayed initial report of damage at Old Bridge Park Mobile Home Park where initial touchdown occurred at 4:45pm EDT.

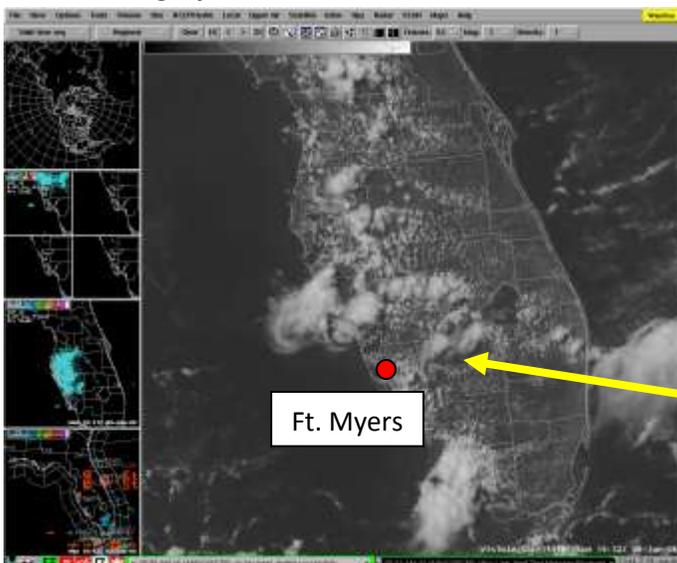
Products Highlights:

SPSTBW: Highlighted gusty winds up to 40mph along with torrential rains.

TORTBW: Relayed law enforcement report, and highlighted the storm's history of damage. WFO TBW public phone number included at the bottom, and soon after issuance calls from the public began to come in.

SVSTBW #1: Relayed report of funnel cloud, and history of damage.

Satellite Imagery: 1hr before the event.



Convection initiated along a convergent band emanating downstream from Lake Okeechobee. When this band came in contact with the sea breeze settling over the Gulf Coast convection intensified rapidly.

IMChat Utilization:

(6/8/2008 5:49:28 PM) **wflawweather**: Hi Ruskin. I have a storm report for you out Citrus County. You might want to check with Emergency Management in Citrus.

(6/8/2008 5:52:14 PM) **wflawweather**: Around 4:30 to 4:45, viewer report from far NW part of the county north of Crystal River around Lake Rosseau, trees down, people trapped in car with trees ontop of the car. She said she has other debris blown around. Some small hail as well. I have a contact number if you would like.

(6/8/2008 5:53:04 PM) **nwstbw**: thanks for the info...if you could forward the contact number that would be great.

(6/8/2008 5:53:36 PM) **wflawweather**: just send it over

(6/8/2008 5:53:40 PM) **wflawweather**: sent

(6/8/2008 5:54:30 PM) **nwstbw**: can you e-mail it to me? Eric.Oglesby@noaa.gov

(6/8/2008 5:54:34 PM) **wflawweather**: ok no problem

(6/8/2008 5:56:18 PM) **wbbh-mpalmer**: have some viewer pics of funnel clouds in Cape Coral thi afternoon. post your email and I'll shoot them your way

(6/8/2008 5:56:21 PM) **wflawweather**: e-mail sent Eric

Tornado Image: Photo relayed from the pubic courtesy WBBH_TV.

**Damage Photos and Description:**

The survey team visited 5 locations along the path of the tornado. Below are pictures from each location in the order they were visited. All damage photos were taken by NWS TBW survey team.

Old Bridge Mobile Home Park (Patrick Henry & Tea Party Drive):



Double-wide mobile home with roof damage. Screened porch (lanai) severely damaged with roof missing as well as outer walls. Mobile home aluminum roof shredded in places.

Tornado rating: EF(0)

Wind estimate: 75-85mph



Image indicates complete destruction of lanai.

Tornado Rating: EF(0)

Wind estimate: 75-85mph

Western Acres Damage (north road):



Un-anchored single-wide mobile home pushed 4 to 5 feet from original position. Mobile home roof was blown off and walls partially collapsed. Notice the almost intact trees to the west of the home. Several small 4 inch diameter branches were broken; however, trees remained mostly intact.

Tornado Rating: EF(0)

Wind Estimate: 80-85mph



More roof and wall damage along with aluminum wrapped around a wooden pole. Bottom image is close up on aluminum roof with roofing nail visible. The roof was attached by evenly spaced nails with no other substantial reinforcement.



Heritage Mobile Home Park (Par Four Place):



Double-wide mobile home with complete structural failure of outer wall and roof section. Wall joints were screwed together 2X4 sections with 2X4 pieces split vertically. Wood was not rotted.

Tornado Rating: EF(1)

Wind estimate: 95-100mph



Roof damaged, but not removed from main double-wide trailer. Garage door blown in with garage roof blown off and thrown 100 yards. Items in the garage remained in their places during event.

Tornado rating: EF(0)

Wind estimate: 75-80mph

Recommendations/Notes:

This event highlighted the need for better coordination between WFO TBW and media in the Ft. Myers area. During interviews with several stations while conducting the damage survey it was revealed that many members of the public were calling local stations reporting funnel clouds, and the tornado. These reports were never relayed. The first report of the tornado was relayed from the Assistant Lee County Emergency Manager nearly 30 minutes after the tornado initially touched down. By this time the tornado had affected at least 3 mobile home parks causing EF(0) damage. Lead forecasters Nick Petro and Mike Cantin will be doing a local study to diagnose what can be drawn from satellite and surface observation data during this event to indicate a tornado was occurring. Radar beam width and height, along with the shallow nature of the tornado made "seeing" the tornado in radar imagery extremely difficult. Eyewitness reports of the tornado indicated it was less than 30 yards wide, with one estimate of 30 feet. Damage path indications confirmed the tornado was likely less than 40 yards wide, most likely less than 30 yards.