

...STORM SURVEY OVERVIEW OF THE MAY 27 2014 SEVERE THUNDERSTORM
IN ADDISON AND RUTLAND COUNTIES...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SURVEY TEAM FOUND THAT THE DAMAGE
FROM THE STORM WAS DUE TO STRAIGHT LINE WINDS, LIKELY WITH
SMALLER EMBEDDED DOWNBURSTS CAUSING LOCALLY ENHANCED WIND SPEEDS
AND ASSOCIATED DAMAGE. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF A TORNADO.

THE AREA IMPACTED BY THE STRONG WINDS WAS RATHER LARGE, ALTHOUGH
THE ACTUAL DAMAGE THAT OCCURRED WAS MORE ISOLATED IN NATURE.

THE SURVEY TEAM ESTIMATED THAT WIND GUSTS IN THE 40 TO 60 MPH
RANGE WITH SMALL POCKETS OF WINDS IN THE 75 TO 85 MPH RANGE
OCCURRED ACROSS A ROUGHLY 3 MILE WIDE AND NEARLY 20 MILE LONG
SWATH WHICH STARTED IN BRIDPORT VERMONT NEAR RT 125 AND STRETCHED
SOUTHEASTWARD INTO SUDBURY VERMONT. THESE ESTIMATES FIT IN WITH AN
OBSERVED GUST TO 74 MPH IN BRIDPORT NEAR THE STARTING POINT OF THE
STRONG WINDS.

THE MAJORITY OF THE WIND DAMAGE WAS FROM TOPPLED/UPROOTED TREES,
THOUGH A FEW TREES WERE OBSERVED TO HAVE BEEN SNAPPED. IN
ADDITION, A 65 FOOT TALL SILO IN BRIDPORT WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED
AND A UTILITY POLE IN CORNWALL WAS SNAPPED. BASED ON THE DIRECTION
THE TREES FELL AND EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS, THE DAMAGING WINDS ALL
WERE FROM A GENERAL NORTHWEST TO NORTH DIRECTION CONSISTENT WITH
STRAIGHT LINE WINDS.

AS THE STORM MOVED SOUTHEAST OF SUDBURY AND ACROSS PROCTOR AND
RUTLAND, THE WINDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE THUNDERSTORM GREATLY
DIMINISHED, WITH VERY MINIMAL WIND DAMAGE BEING OBSERVED IN THESE
AREAS.

WHAT IS PROBABLY MOST STRIKING ABOUT THIS STORM WAS THE NEARLY
CONTINUOUS SWATH OF HAIL -- BOTH LARGE IN SIZE AND AMOUNT THAT FELL.
THE HAIL SWATH WAS ABOUT 30 TO 35 MILES IN LENGTH, STARTING IN
BRIDPORT AND CONTINUING TO SOUTH OF RUTLAND. IT IS QUITE LIKELY
THAT THE DAMAGE COST FROM THIS STORM WILL BE PRIMARILY DUE TO THE
HAIL DAMAGE.

HAIL AS LARGE AS GOLF BALLS (1.75" IN DIAMETER) WERE REPORTED
THROUGHOUT THE PATH OF THE STORM, WITH DIME TO QUARTER SIZE (1"
DIAMETER) BEING MOST COMMON. SEVERAL INCHES OF HAIL ACCUMULATED IN
SOME AREAS. IN ADDITION, THE SHEER QUANTITY OF HAIL CAUSED A
CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TREE LEAF DAMAGE -- WITH THE WORST OF THIS
BEING OBSERVED IN PROCTOR VERMONT. IN RUTLAND, THE HAIL CAUSED
DAMAGE TO CARS AND WINDOWS. HAIL WAS STILL OBSERVED ON THE GROUND
ALMOST 24 HOURS AFTER THE STORM IN CORNWALL.

VERY HEAVY RAIN ALSO OCCURRED WITH THIS STORM, WITH ONE
UNOFFICIAL REPORT OF 1.8" IN LESS THAN 1 HOUR IN CORNWALL. THE
SURVEY TEAM OBSERVED SIGNS OF MINOR ROAD WASHOUTS AND EVIDENCE OF
SMALL STREAM FLOODING HAVING OCCURRED AS WELL.

THE THUNDERSTORM RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE DAMAGE INITIALLY
DEVELOPED OVER THE ADIRONDACKS AROUND 230PM AND QUICKLY BECAME SEVERE
AS IT MOVED SOUTHEAST AND REACHED VERMONT ABOUT 330PM. THE THUNDERSTORM
FINALLY DISSIPATED AS IT MOVED INTO EXTREME SOUTHERN VERMONT ABOUT 600PM.
THIS TYPE OF THUNDERSTORM WHICH PERSISTS FOR SEVERAL HOURS AND
PRODUCE DAMAGE ALONG IT'S TRACK IS CALLED A SUPERCELL.