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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHARLESTON SC

421 AM EDT TUE MAY 31 2005

...JAMES ISLAND TORNADO RATED F1 BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE...

A SURVEY TEAM FROM THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST OFFICE IN CHARLESTON SC SURVEYED DAMAGE THAT OCCURRED FROM A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM THAT MOVED THROUGH JAMES ISLAND SC BETWEEN 730 AM AND 8 AM MONDAY MORNING. SPORADIC DAMAGE OCCURRED IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE CITY...MAINLY ALONG FOLLY ROAD AND HARBOR VIEW ROAD...WITH THE MOST SEVERE DAMAGE BEING CONFINED TO A SMALL AREA JUST OFF HARBOR VIEW ROAD IN THE BATTERY POINT AREA. EVALUATION OF THE DAMAGE IN THIS AREA IS CONSISTENT WITH DAMAGE FROM A F1 TORNADO WITH ESTIMATED MAXIMUM WINDS AROUND 90 MPH.

...TRACK REVIEW...

THE FIRST TOUCHDOWN OF THE TORNADO OCCURRED IN THE LAUREL PARK AND CROSS CREEK NEIGHBORHOODS NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF MAYBANK HIGHWAY AND FOLLY ROAD AROUND 735 AM. HERE THE TORNADO DOWNED SEVERAL POWER LINES. THIS DAMAGE IS CONSISTENT WITH F0 INTENSITY WITH WINDS ESTIMATED AROUND 60 MPH.

THE SECOND TOUCHDOWN OCCURRED NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF THE JAMES ISLAND CONNECTOR AND FOLLY ROAD AROUND 740 AM. HERE THE TORNADO TWISTED AND DESTROYED SEVERAL LARGE ROAD SIGNS AND BLEW DOWN THE SIGN OF A LOCAL MERCHANT. THIS DAMAGE IS CONSISTENT WITH F0 INTENSITY WITH WINDS ESTIMATED BETWEEN 50 AND 60 MPH.

THE THIRD AND MOST INTENSE TOUCHDOWN OCCURRED IN THE BATTERY POINT AREA OFF OF HARBOR VIEW ROAD...SPECIFICALLY ON MONTGOMERY AND DARWIN STREETS. HERE THE TORNADO STRENGTHENED TO F1 INTENSITY WITH WINDS ESTIMATED AROUND 90 MPH. THE TORNADO SEVERELY DAMAGED MANY TREES... INCLUDING SEVERAL LARGE GRAND OAKS. HIGH WINDS PARTIALLY DESTROYED A PORCH AND RIPPED VINYL SIDING AND GUTTERS FROM SEVERAL HOMES. MINOR ROOF DAMAGE OCCURRED TO ONE HOUSE. INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS CONFIRMED THE TORNADO PASSED THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD AROUND 745 AM. SEVERAL RESIDENTS VISUALLY SPOTTED THE TORNADO AND SAID IT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A LOUD ROARING SOUND. THE DAMAGE PATH WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 1/10 OF A MILE LONG WITH AN APPROXIMATE WIDTH OF 100-150 FT.

THE FOURTH TOUCHDOWN OCCURRED ON THE EDGE OF FORT JOHNSON ESTATES JUST OFF FORT JOHNSON ROAD. HERE TWO TREES WERE TWISTED AND SNAPPED ON ROBERT E. LEE BOULEVARD ALONG THE MARSHY AREA OF PARROT POINT CREEK. THIS DAMAGE LIKELY OCCURRED AROUND 750 AM AND IS CONSISTENT WITH F0 INTENSITY WITH WINDS BETWEEN 50 AND 60 MPH.

THE FIFTH AND FINAL TOUCHDOWN OCCURRED IN THE OPEN WATERS NEAR THE FORT SUMTER NATIONAL MONUMENT WHERE THE PUBLIC AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS OBSERVED A WATERSPOUT BETWEEN 750 AM AND 755 AM. NO DAMAGE IS KNOWN TO HAVE OCCURRED IN THIS AREA SO THE F-SCALE RATING IS UNKNOWN.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN CHARLESTON WISHES TO THANK THE
CITIZENS OF JAMES ISLAND...THE CHARLESTON BROADCAST MEDIA AND LOCAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICES FOR THEIR HELP YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

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