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Public Information Statement

National Weather Service Fort Worth TX

1135 AM CDT Tue May 2 2017

...Public Information Statement...

...NWS DAMAGE SURVEY FOR 04/29/17 TORNADOES...

.Corrected to add summary on the second Eastern Canton Tornado.

.Update...Adding final information to the existing 6 known tornadoes and adding one additional tornado.

.Overview...

National Weather Service damage survey teams continued to survey the damage across Henderson, Van Zandt, Rains and Hopkins Counties. Multiple teams were deployed Sunday and Monday to piece together the events that unfolded on April 29th, 2017. A total of 7 tornadoes occurred between 4:15 pm and 7:13 pm over the four counties.

Synoptically, a deep low pressure system near the Four corners continued to move east, causing early morning thunderstorms to develop along the Texas Panhandle and into Oklahoma. A cold front was moving southeast across the state and entered our northwestern counties around sunrise. The strength of the cap was sufficient to hamper any development until mid afternoon. Deep forcing for ascent approached from the west while remnant boundaries associated with convection over far East Texas and West Louisiana moved in from the east. By 3:30 PM, several parameters came together for the rapid development of severe storms east of Interstate 35/35E. Pre-frontal convection led to the development of supercells, producing numerous tornadoes over a relatively small area. Additional storm development quickly developed along the cold front with several reports of large hail, and eventually producing a brief EF-0 Quasi-Linear Convective System (QLCS) tornado (Tornado #7).

The survey crew teams determined yesterday that there was indeed a nearly 55 mile damage swath, yet found evidence that there were two tornadoes which caused the damage. One tornado began in western Henderson County and moved into central Van Zandt County. This tornado occluded and dissipated, and a second, long track tornado began nearby. This second tornado was the EF-3 which produced damage on the east side of Canton, Fruitvale, Emory, and finally dissipating near Lake Fork. The first tornado had a track of approximately 12 miles, while the other had a track of nearly 42 miles.

The tornadoes are listed below in chronological order and may not match the same order as previous public information statements. The tornado fatalities are listed below, yet more investigation is needed to determine the number of injuries by each tornado. It is known that at least 49 people were transported to area hospitals because of Saturday's tornadoes. These tornado numbers should match the tornado numbering system on graphics on the main NWS Fort Worth website.

.Tornado #1 Grand Saline Area...

Rating: EFO  
Estimated Peak Wind: 80 mph  
Path Length /statute/: 1.54 miles  
Path Width /maximum/: 100 yards  
Fatalities: 0  
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 04/29/2017  
Start Time: 04:15 PM CDT  
Start Location: 5 SSW Grand Saline / Van Zandt County /  
TX  
Start Lat/Lon: 32.6056 / -95.7526

End Date: 04/29/2017  
End Time: 04:18 PM CDT  
End Location: 4 SSW Grand Saline / Van Zandt County /  
TX  
End Lat/Lon: 32.6272 / -95.7457

Summary: This tornado was observed by storm spotters and storm chasers. This was fairly brief tornado, with damage noted only to trees.

.Tornado #2 East Canton...

Rating: EF0  
Estimated Peak Wind: 75 mph  
Path Length /statute/: 1.81 miles  
Path Width /maximum/: 75 yards  
Fatalities: 0  
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 04/29/2017  
Start Time: 05:10 PM CDT  
Start Location: 1 ESE Canton / Van Zandt County / TX  
Start Lat/Lon: 32.5405 / -95.8429

End Date: 04/29/2017  
End Time: 05:14 PM CDT  
End Location: 2 ENE Canton / Van Zandt County / TX  
End Lat/Lon: 32.5642 / -95.8299

Summary: This brief tornado occurred in nearly the same area of the larger tornado which came through about an hour later. This tornado caused damage to trees and a few barns, just southeast of the city center of Canton.

.Tornado #3 Eustace to West Canton...

Rating: EF4  
Estimated Peak Wind: 180 mph  
Path Length /statute/: 21.94 miles  
Path Width /maximum/: 1760 yards  
Fatalities: 2  
Injuries: Unknown

Start Date: 04/29/2017  
Start Time: 05:29 PM CDT  
Start Location: 2 N Log Cabin / Henderson County / TX  
Start Lat/Lon: 32.2572 / -96.018

End Date: 04/29/2017  
End Time: 06:09 PM CDT  
End Location: 4 W Canton / Van Zandt County / TX  
End Lat/Lon: 32.5528 / -95.9306

Summary: This was the strongest tornado to occur during this event, with damage consistent with an EF4 winds was surveyed in the community of Old Bethel in Van Zandt County.

A survey team found that this tornado began near the intersection of FM 2813 and 2329, or about two miles north of the town of Log Cabin in northwestern Henderson County. The tornado then tracked northeast and crossed US-175 2 miles southeast of Eustace, before moving towards the north after crossing FM 2709. Mainly tree damage was observed from this location to the Van Zandt/Henderson County border. More substantial damage to several residences then occurred as this tornado crossed into southern Van Zandt County, consistent with winds around 100 to 120 mph. Complete destruction to a mobile home was observed here.

The tornado continued northward, and produced the most substantial damage in a narrow corridor near the intersection of FM 2301 and 2313. All walls of a well constructed two story brick house collapsed, with additional severe debarking of numerous trees occurring on the property.

This damage is consistent with wind speeds around 175 to 185 mph. The tornado reached its greatest width, roughly 1 mile, as it crossed SH-198 where numerous high tension towers were demolished. The tornado then gradually weakened as it curled towards the northwest, before finally dissipating near SH-243, 2 miles outside of Canton.

.Tornado #4 Henderson County to South Van Zandt County...

Rating: EF2  
Estimated Peak Wind: 125 mph  
Path Length /statute/: 11.82 miles  
Path Width /maximum/: 100 yards  
Fatalities: 0  
Injuries: Unknown

Start Date: 04/29/2017  
Start Time: 05:41 PM CDT  
Start Location: 3 NE Log Cabin / Henderson County / TX  
Start Lat/Lon: 32.251 / -95.9803

End Date: 04/29/2017  
End Time: 06:04 PM CDT  
End Location: 9 NE Eustace / Van Zandt County / TX  
End Lat/Lon: 32.4061 / -95.9025

Summary: This tornado developed northeast of Log Cabin with the first visible damage associated to snapped trees. As the tornado moved north/northeast, a tall communications tower was snapped in half. Eventually, the tornado crossed paths with several homes which led to complete destruction and many debarked trees. The damage path continued to the northeast, eventually stopping near the intersection of Van Zandt County Road 2903 and FM 1256. As this tornado occluded and dissipated, the next tornado began in the next few minutes.

.Tornado #5 Eastern Canton Tornado...

Rating: EF3  
Estimated Peak Wind: 145 mph  
Path Length /statute/: 40.05 miles  
Path Width /maximum/: 1760 yards  
Fatalities: 2  
Injuries: Unknown

Start Date: 04/29/2017  
Start Time: 06:08 PM CDT  
Start Location: 10 S Canton / Van Zandt County / TX  
Start Lat/Lon: 32.3991 / -95.8756

End Date: 04/29/2017  
End Time: 07:28 PM CDT  
End Location: 6 NE Emory / Rains County / TX  
End Lat/Lon: 32.954 / -95.6987

Summary: This tornado began as tornado #4 dissipated and the supercell cycled another tornado about a mile to the east and northeast. This tornado quickly grew to a large tornado, becoming slightly less than one mile wide at its widest point. The tornado was at the strongest near Interstate 20 and FM 17 just north of Canton. The survey crews found continuous damage between Canton and Fruitvale, and then additional damage as far north as Emory, and Lake Fork. Several homes, businesses, and farm buildings were damaged or destroyed in the 40 mile continuous damage path. This tornado occurred for over an hour, and spanned most of Van Zandt, and nearly all of Rains Counties during the 80 minute track.

.Tornado #6 Miller Grove to Cumby Area...

Rating: EFO  
Estimated Peak Wind: 85 mph  
Path Length /statute/: 8.93 miles  
Path Width /maximum/: 100 yards  
Fatalities: 0  
Injuries: Unknown

Start Date: 04/29/2017  
Start Time: 06:32 PM CDT  
Start Location: 4 NNE Point / Hopkins County / TX  
Start Lat/Lon: 32.9906 / -95.836

End Date: 04/29/2017  
End Time: 06:50 PM CDT  
End Location: 1 SSE Cumby / Hopkins County / TX  
End Lat/Lon: 33.1146 / -95.8302

Summary: Residents recorded video of a tornado near FM 1567 and County Road 1137 shortly after 530 PM. Tornado briefly had multiple vortices but generally maintained a width of around 100 yards. The tornado traveled north along County Road 1131 with mainly tree damage observed. A metal barn was destroyed near CR 1131 and CR 1120. A home was damaged along FM 275 south of I-30 near the end of the track. The home burned after a large tree limb fell on the main powerline into the home.



.Tornado # 7 Southwest Van Zandt County...

Rating: EF0  
Estimated Peak Wind: 80 mph  
Path Length /statute/: 0.88 miles  
Path Width /maximum/: 80 yards  
Fatalities: 0  
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 04/29/2017  
Start Time: 07:13 PM CDT  
Start Location: 3 ENE Mabank / Van Zandt County / TX  
Start Lat/Lon: 32.3859 / -96.0528

End Date: 04/29/2017  
End Time: 07:15 PM CDT  
End Location: 4 ENE Mabank / Van Zandt County / TX  
End Lat/Lon: 32.3822 / -96.0384

Summary: This tornado was observed by residents of southwest Van Zandt County, south of Van Zandt County road 2308. This tornado occurred over open fields.

EF Scale: The Enhanced Fujita Scale classifies tornadoes into the following categories.

EF0...Weak.....65 TO 85 mph  
EF1...Weak.....86 TO 110 mph  
EF2...Strong....111 TO 135 mph  
EF3...Strong....136 TO 165 mph  
EF4...Violent...166 TO 200mph  
EF5...Violent...>200mph

NOTE:

The information in this statement is preliminary and subject to change pending final review of the events and publication in NWS Storm Data.

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