PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WILMINGTON NC
530 PM EST FRI NOV 17 2006
...F3 TORNADO DAMAGE CONFIRMED AT RIEGELWOOD NC...

TODAY A NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE STORM SURVEY TEAM ASSESSED THE
TORNADO DAMAGE AT RIEGELWOOD...IN COLUMBUS COUNTY NC. THE DAMAGE WAS
RATED AT F3 ON THE FUJITA SCALE FOR NEARLY A MILE IN RIEGELWOOD...
WITH WINDS APPROACHING 200 MPH. THE MAXIMUM WIDTH OF THE TORNADO WAS
300 YARDS WHERE F3 DAMAGE OCCURRED. THE REST OF THE 7 MILE DAMAGE
PATH WAS NARROW...LESS THAN 100 YARDS WIDE...AND RATED AT F1...WITH
WINDS LESS THAN 100 MPH EXTENDING NORTH ACROSS COLUMBUS COUNTY INTO
WESTERN PENDER COUNTY.

THE TORNADO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR 8 FATALITIES AND 20 INJURIES THAT
REQUIRED MEDICAL TREATMENT. THE COLUMBUS COUNTY SHERIFF REPORTED 30
HOMES DESTROYED IN THE F3 DAMAGE AREA...AND ANOTHER 3 STRUCTURES
WERE DAMAGED IN PENDER COUNTY JUST WEST OF CURRIE.

THE TORNADO WAS SPAWNED FROM A LINE OF POWERFUL THUNDERSTORMS
ASSOCIATED WITH A STRONG COLD FRONT THAT MOVED THROUGH THE CAROLINAS
EARLY THURSDAY MORNING.

A TORNADO WARNING HAD BEEN ISSUED FOR EASTERN COLUMBUS COUNTY AT 629
AM...AND PRIOR TO THAT A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING WAS ISSUED FOR
THE SAME AREA AT 621 AM. NOAA WEATHER RADIOS IN THE AREA
AUTOMATICALLY ALARMED FOR BOTH WARNINGS TO ALERT PEOPLE.
THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ENCOURAGES EVERYONE TO SERIOUSLY
CONSIDER YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY...AS WELL AS YOUR FAMILY...AND
PURCHASE A WEATHER RADIO FOR THE HOME OR BUSINESS. WHEN A WARNING IS
ISSUED THE RADIO WILL AUTOMATICALLY ALARM...GIVING YOU PRECIOUS TIME
TO PREPARE FOR A DANGEROUS SITUATION.

NOAA WEATHER RADIO ALL HAZARDS IS THE ONLY GOVERNMENT RADIO SYSTEM
THERE IS...AND IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY ALARM TO ALERT YOU TO A WIDE
RANGE OF HAZARDS...OTHER THAN WEATHER.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NOAA WEATHER RADIO ALL HAZARDS...PLEASE GO
TO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WEBSITE: HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV
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