



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1996

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Crops	Character of Storm
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DCZ001

District Of Columbia

18	1400EST								
21	1700EST			0	1				Excessive Heat

An early-season four-day heat wave, following a period of cooler than normal weather, took its toll on outdoor enthusiasts who were unprepared for the dramatic temperature swing. Not one week earlier, minimum temperatures ranged from the lower 30s in the cooler suburbs to the lower 40s downtown; only one day before the heat wave began, maximum temperatures will in the 60s.

One person, a 42 year old male, suffered heat stroke in Northwest. May 20 was the hottest day of the period; Washington/National airport (DCA) set a new record at 96°F. Temperatures were in the mid and upper 90s during the period, but heat indices were held at the actual temperatures by low relative humidity. Potomac Electric Power Co (PEPCO) administered "brown-outs" in the Washington metropolitan area to reduce energy consumption.

MARYLAND, Central

**Charles County
South Portion**

04	2105EST								
				0	0	2K			Thunderstorm Wind

A large persistent thunderstorm moved across the tidal Potomac River from Stafford and King George Cos in Virginia into southern Charles Co. Scattered trees were blown down.

**Calvert County
Prince Frederick**

04	2108EST								
				0	0				Thunderstorm Wind (G60)

A severe thunderstorm produced wind gusts of at least 69 mph at an automated weather station in Prince Frederick.

**St. Mary's County
Avenue to
Compton**

04	2125EST 2135EST								
				0	0	15K			Thunderstorm Wind

The same rotating thunderstorm that early struck Charles Co moved into southern St. Marys Co, knocking down trees and causing sporadic power outages in Compton and Avenue. One tree fell into a home in Compton.

**St. Mary's County
Avenue to
Breton Bay**

04	2125EST 2130EST								
				0	0	30K			Lightning

Lightning struck in both Avenue and Breton Bay, igniting a garage fire (Avenue) at 2125EST and a house fire (Breton Bay) at 2130EST.

**Charles County
Hilltop**

04	2139EST								
				0	0	25K			Thunderstorm Wind

Thunderstorm winds blew the roof of a house near the intersection of Annapolis Road and state route 6.

**St. Mary's County
Lexington Park to
Ridge**

04	2140EST 2155EST								
				0	0	5K			Hail (2.00)

Two inch diameter hail was reported by spotters in Lexington Park, and hail up to 1 inch in diameter was reported farther southeast, extending to Ridge.

**Prince George's County
Accokeek**

04	2150EST								
				0	0	10K			Thunderstorm Wind

The same bow-echo which produced a wind gusts of 79 mph at Fort Belvoir (Fairfax Co Virginia) moved across the Potomac River into southern Prince Georges Co, causing substantial tree damage in Accokeek. In an area 300 feet long by 40 feet wide along Farmington Road, 15 large trees were uprooted or snapped at one residence.

**Charles County
La Plata**

04	2205EST								
				0	0	5K			Thunderstorm Wind

The same line of thunderstorms that struck southern Prince Georges Co moments earlier blew down some trees and power lines in and around La Plata. Scattered power outages also occurred in the area.

**Prince George's County
Clinton to
Upper Marlboro**

04	2210EST 2225EST								
				0	0	5K			Thunderstorm Wind

The bow-echo that struck southern Prince Georges and Charles Co continued to the east-northeast, causing scattered tree and power lines damage in Clinton and Upper Marlboro.

**St. Mary's County
Mechanicsville to
Point No Point**

04	2215EST 2230EST								
				0	0	5K			Thunderstorm Wind (G70)

A second line of severe thunderstorms moved across St Mary's Co, causing additional tree damage in the Mechanicsville area. A ship stationed at Pt. No Point recorded wind gusts between 70 and 80 knots roughly at 2227-2230EST.



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MARYLAND, Central

Calvert County St Leonard	04	2230EST			0	0	2K		Thunderstorm Wind Thunderstorm winds blew down trees in St Leonard (southern Calvert Co).
Harford County Bel Air	11	1505EST			0	0	8K		Thunderstorm Wind (G52) Estimated wind gusts to 60 mph felled several large trees and limbs in Bel Air. A row of Bradford Pears was knocked down along Major's Choice Road.
Charles County 5 SW Waldorf	11	1605EST			0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind (G52) Estimated wind gusts to 60 mph felled a few trees, some onto power lines, in the White Plains area near Waldorf.
MDZ003>007-009>011-013>014-016>018			Washington - Frederick - Carroll - Northern Baltimore - Harford - Montgomery - Howard - Southern Baltimore - Prince Georges - Anne Arundel - Charles - St. Mary'S - Calvert						Excessive Heat An early-season four-day heat wave, following a period of cool and generally cloudy weather, took it's toll on outdoor enthusiasts who were unprepared for the dramatic temperature swing. Two persons suffered heat stroke in Washington Co (MDZ003), requiring hospitalization. Temperatures for the period averaged in the mid to upper 90s, yet less than a week earlier, fruit crops in western Maryland were threatened by subfreezing temperatures. In fact, daily maxima one and two days prior to the heat wave were in the 60s. Several record high temperatures were shattered, including two at Patuxent River NAS (MDZ017) on the 19th and 20th. In fact, Patuxent River NAS was the sole official site to reach the century mark (on the 20th). Potomac Electric Power Co (PEPCO) induced a small-scale "brownout" in the Washington Metropolitan area to reduce energy consumption.
	18	1400EST			0	2			
	21	1700EST							

VIRGINIA, North

Page County Shenandoah	04	1900EST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Highland County All	04	1930EST			0	0	2K		Thunderstorm Wind The Highland Co sheriff's department reported scattered trees blown down throughout the county.
Rappahannock County Woodville	04	1930EST			0	0	3K		Thunderstorm Wind A local power company reported several trees down, some onto power lines, in Woodville.
Shenandoah County New Market	04	1930EST			0	0	10K		Thunderstorm Wind (G61) A microburst produced wind gusts estimated at 70 mph, which blew down numerous tents at a Boy Scout "camporee" in the New Market Battlefield Park. Fortunately, there were no injuries among the 1500 scouts attending the event.
Culpeper County 5 W Culpeper	04	1940EST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Augusta County Augusta Springs	04	1945EST			0	0	15K		Thunderstorm Wind Thunderstorm winds blew down trees at a youth camp near Augusta Springs off highway 42. One tree fell onto an automobile. Wind gusts caused minor damage to one of the camp's buildings.
Rockingham County 5 NW Bridgewater to Bridgewater	04	1950EST 2000EST			0	0	8K		Thunderstorm Wind A bowing line of thunderstorms swept across central and southern Rockingham Co, knocking down trees in the Bridgewater area. More than a half dozen large trees were felled along state route 257 near Montezuma; several others were knocked down in Bridgewater. Power was temporarily lost in the area.
Culpeper County Culpeper to 10 E Culpeper	04	1955EST 2010EST			0	0	5K		Hail (4.50) A large rotating thunderstorm dropped a swath of large hail across Culpeper Co. Three-quarter inch sized hail fell west of Culpeper. Golfball and ping-pong ball sized hail was reported in Richardsville at 2010EST, shattering an automobile windshield and side window. Between 1955 and 2010EST, softball sized hail fell in Lignum, a small town between Culpeper and



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VIRGINIA, North

Richardsville.

Clarke County Boyce

04	2000EST								
				0	0	2K			Lightning

Lightning started a small fire at a Clarke Co residence near Boyce. Fire damage was reported to the television antenna and associated cable, as well as window jams.

Rockingham County Timberville

04	2004EST								
				0	0	2K			Thunderstorm Wind (G51)

Thunderstorm winds gusted to 59 mph, and a few trees were knocked down, in the town of Timberville.

Rockingham County Harrisonburg to 3 E Harrisonburg

04	2005EST 2010EST								
				0	0	100K			Thunderstorm Wind

The same bowing thunderstorm line, which produced nearly simultaneous reports of damage in the extreme northern and southwestern portions of the county, caused more substantial problems in eastern Harrisonburg. Trees were blown into mobile homes, with some sustaining heavy damage.

Augusta County Staunton to Waynesboro

04	2005EST 2020EST								
				0	0	35K			Thunderstorm Wind (G51)

Thunderstorm winds blew down trees in the Staunton area. A small building was destroyed at a park. Wind gusts of 59 mph were reported in south central Augusta Co at 2010EST. Two automobiles were damaged by fallen trees in Lynndhurst, and a barn was destroyed as well. Another tree fell onto an unoccupied van in Waynesboro.

Prince William County South Portion

04	2010EST 2018EST								
				0	0	15K			Thunderstorm Wind

Thunderstorm winds caused a small barn to collapse in the southern part of the county. Virginia Power reported 30 poles were snapped. One-inch hail fell in the Summerduck community.

Augusta County Waynesboro

04	2020EST								
				0	0	25K			Lightning

Three cows and seven calves were killed by a lightning strike in Stuarts Draft.

Page County Luray

04	2025EST								
				0	0	3K			Thunderstorm Wind

Thunderstorm winds knocked down numerous trees along federal highway 211.

Albemarle County Charlottesville

04	2025EST								
				0	0	75K			Thunderstorm Wind

The same bow-echo that ripped Augusta and Rockingham Cos blew down hundreds of trees and power lines in Charlottesville and areas north and east of town. An historic red oak, reportedly the second largest in the state (8 feet in diameter), was felled. The fallen tree damaged a nearby automobile and truck. Eighteen trees fell in one residence's back yard. Several others fell onto automobiles, and one pierced the Observatory Hill dining hall.

Stafford County Stafford to Falmouth

04	2025EST 2035EST								
				0	0	8K			Hail (1.75)

A large rotating thunderstorm dropped large hail, and generated damaging winds, as it moved across Stafford Co. Golfball sized hail (1 and 3/4 inch) was reported in Stafford at around 2030EST. Some cars were dented; the hail tore holes in vinyl siding of a few residences but did not penetrate the wood underneath. Several trees were also knocked down between Stafford and Falmouth.

Nelson County Afton Mountain to Nellys Ford

04	2032EST 2035EST								
				0	0	2K			Thunderstorm Wind

A bow-echo which moved through Augusta Co moments earlier caused damage in northern Nelson Co, in the form of scattered downed trees between Afton Mountain and Nellys Ford.

Madison County Northwest Portion

04	2035EST								
				0	0	5K			Thunderstorm Wind

Thunderstorm winds knocked down several trees in northwestern Madison Co.

Greene County Countywide

04	2035EST								
				0	0	15K			Thunderstorm Wind

Numerous trees were downed across the county by thunderstorm winds.



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WEST VIRGINIA, East

Hardy County
Sw Portion

05	2200EST 2300EST				0	0	5K		Flash Flood
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Pendleton County
S Half

16 17	2130EST 0400EST				0	0	75K		Flash Flood
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Training thunderstorms over the lower Potomac Highlands dumped an estimated 4 to 5 inches of rain onto previously saturated soil, producing widespread flooding. Mud and rock slides most likely occurred across the southern half of the county; federal highway 220 was closed near Franklin. At least two evacuations were ordered; one at the Big Run (Circleville) and another at a nearby trailer park.

Pendleton County
Riverton

28	1700EST 2000EST				0	0	5K		Flash Flood
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Rainfall of nearly 1 and 1/2 inches in 2 hours caused flooding in Riverton. The flooding washed out a portion of Forest Road.