

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TALLAHASSEE FL  
443 PM CST Mon Nov 17 2014

...Preliminary Damage Survey Results For November 17th Tornadoes...

A storm survey team from NWS Tallahassee went to Calhoun, Liberty, and Gadsden Counties to examine storm damage from a thunderstorm on November 17th. It has been determined that this damage was the result of a tornado. The preliminary details are included below.

Additional damage was reported in Jackson County. That damage will be surveyed tomorrow. Doppler radar detected a debris signature in western Bay County as well, but no damage reports have yet been received from a rural, forested area.

Rating: EF2  
Estimated Peak Wind: 120-130 mph  
Path Length: 22.3 miles  
Maximum Path Width: 420 yards  
Fatalities: 0  
Injuries: 2 (minor injuries)

Start Date: 11/17/2014  
Start Time: 4:19 AM CST (5:19 AM EST)  
Start Location: 3 SSW Blountstown, Florida  
Start Lat/Lon: 30.4025N, 85.0746W

End Date: 11/17/2014  
End Time: 4:49 AM CST (5:49 AM EST)  
End Location: 3 ENE Sycamore, Florida  
End Lat/Lon: 30.5957N, 84.7766W

Survey Summary: The tornado likely began in a heavily forested area with limited access just SW of the Calhoun Correctional Institution - between the prison grounds and Highway 71. The beginning point was estimated based on the rest of the damage path and a lack of observed damage along Highway 71. The tornado then quickly intensified as it moved into the prison grounds. Several concrete buildings were heavily damaged - including a two-story printing facility. The eastern wall of that particular building was completely collapsed with the roof almost entirely removed. An adjacent concrete building also had large sections of roof removed. The damage to both of these buildings was rated EF2 with maximum estimated winds of 120-130 mph - in the high end of the EF2 range. Other buildings, including some warehouses, were also damaged on the prison grounds. There were some light poles that were snapped, and some trees near the entrance to the facility were also snapped. All of that additional damage was rated EF1. Over 30 cars that were parked in the parking lot by the administrative building were damaged, and some were tossed or rolled as much as 50-100 yards - a few badly crumpled due to impacts. There were some objects driven into the ground near the parking lot as well; an emergency manager also observed a screwdriver driven into the bottom of a flipped vehicle. Some concrete curbs along the parking lot were ripped from the ground.

After moving northeast off the prison grounds, the tornado crossed some forested area near the Apalachicola River, clipping areas along the southern tip of River Road and then crossing Highway 20 just west of the Apalachicola River bridge. There were numerous healthy, large trees that were snapped in the damage path, as well as some power poles. This portion of the damage path was rated EF1

with maximum winds of around 100 MPH.

The tornado then moved through northwest Liberty County. We were able to determine it was a continuous damage path as there was damage noted along all of the major roadways that intersected the radar rotation track. The damage in Liberty County was limited to primarily trees, and this segment of the damage path was rated EF0 with maximum winds of 70-80 MPH. Measurements of the width of the damage path on several roads in Liberty County indicates that the tornado may have been at its widest at this point, though, with a maximum path width of around 420 yards.

The last portion of the damage path was in southwest Gadsden County where the tornado briefly intensified and the damage path narrowed. Another corridor of more significant tree damage was noted near Sycamore Road and Winding Creek Road. Numerous trees were snapped or uprooted, and several power poles were snapped. A few homes in this area had some minor damage to the exterior of the structure. Damage in this area was rated EF1. The damage path quickly narrowed thereafter, and the damage became more sporadic, with the last damaged noted along Flat Creek Road just east of Audie Clark Road.

With a total damage path length of 22.3 miles, this was the longest tornado path in the NWS Tallahassee County Warning Area (CWA) since March 1, 2007 (two tornadoes with about a 30mi path length in SE Alabama and SW Georgia during that event).

This is also the longest tornado path in the state of Florida since a February 1, 2007 tornado in Lake and Volusia Counties in central Florida (26 miles).

Note:

Information is preliminary and subject to change pending final review of the events and publication in NWS Storm Data.

\$\$

LAMERS/GODSEY/DOBBS