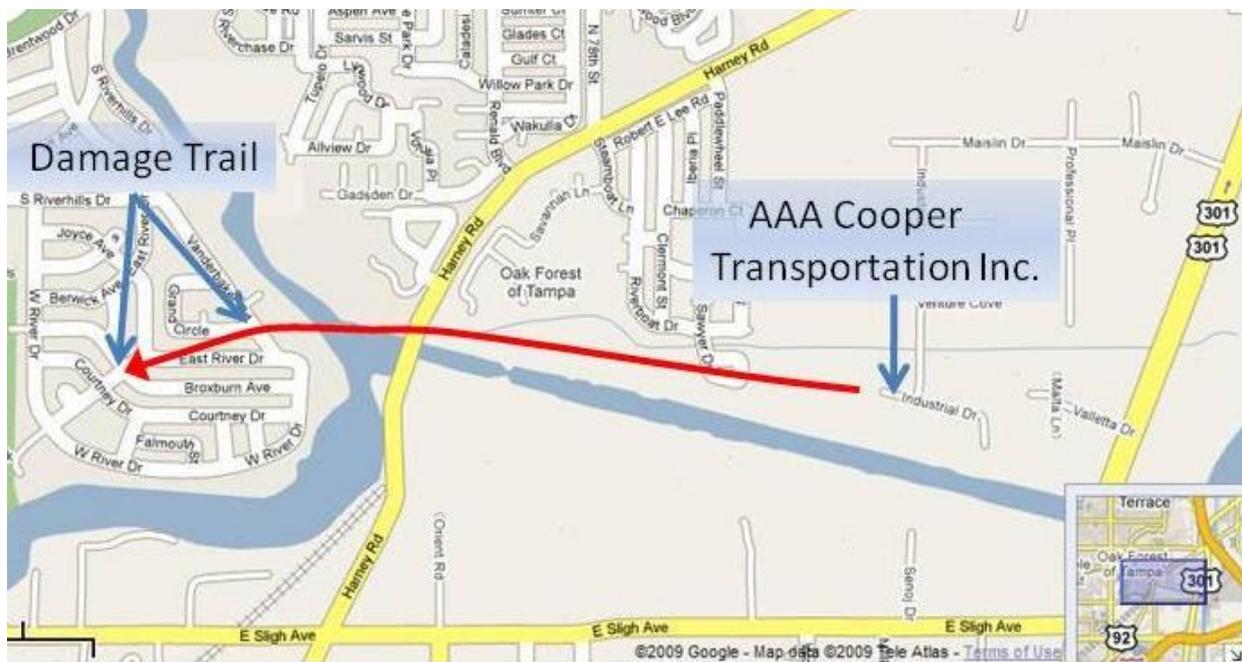**Type of Event: EF0 Tornado, winds estimated 70-80mph**
Date of Event: 5/13/09
Time of Event: 6:33pm EDT
Location: Temple Terrace, from near Industrial Drive west to the 700 block of Grand Circle and the 800 block of East River Drive.

At just after 6:30pm EDT on Wednesday, May 13th, 2009 a tornado touched down along open fields near Industrial Drive and then lifted and turned to again touch down along portions of Grand Circle and East River Drive in Temple Terrace. Initial reports indicated a possible tornado, so WFO Ruskin dispatched forecasters to survey the damage. Forecasters Jennifer Colson and Anthony Reynes, and Meteorologist Intern Nicole Carlisle inspected the damage and talked with some affected residents and businesses. An explanation of their reasoning for the tornado rating follows.

Damage in the area of Grand Circle and East River Drive consisted of 4 uprooted trees one of which fell on a house, a few large snapped tree branches, several downed tree branches ranging in diameter from 2 to 6+ inches, and several shutters ripped off the front of a home. The total damage path length was around 1 mile, with a path width of 20-25yds. The image below shows the approximate path of the tornado.

The narrow width of the damage along with the scattering of damage along the path, eyewitness accounts, and the twisted nature of area trees were the determining factors in the decision to identify the damage as tornado related.

Uprooted tree that fell on a house on Grand Circle

Uprooted tree on East River Drive

Winds with the tornado were estimated to be between 70-80 mph, making this an EF0 tornado. This rating was based on the uprooted trees. The shallow root structure of most of the fallen trees would have made them susceptible to winds of this magnitude. In addition, most of the fallen trees appeared to be in a weakened state prior to the event.

If you have further question, please contact the National Weather Service in Ruskin at 813-645-2323.