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Public Information Statement

National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA

755 PM EDT Fri Aug 18 2023

...PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON AUGUST 18 TORNADOES IN SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND...

Meteorologists from the National Weather Service in Boston/Norton conducted damage surveys today to assess damage from severe thunderstorms that moved through southern New England this morning.

The following is an overview of preliminary findings. A more detailed summary will follow Monday in order to allow for a more thorough examination of photos, videos, and radar data.

...EF-2 Tornado Confirmed in Rhode Island...

A tornado caused significant damage along a discontinuous path in Scituate, Johnston, and North Providence, Rhode Island. This is the strongest tornado to have struck Rhode Island since the F-2 tornado in Cranston and Providence on August 7, 1986.

The tornado first touched down near Byron Randall Road in Scituate which is where the most severe damage occurred. There were hundreds of large trees either uprooted or snapped at their bases. One home sustained damage to its roof, the top of its chimney was blown off, windows were blown in, and an exterior door was dislodged from its framing. Damage was consistent with winds of around 115 mph which is classified as EF-2 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

The tornado then tracked into Johnston where it crossed I-295 at Exit 10 and lifted a vehicle into the air before dropping it back onto the highway. The driver was transported to an area hospital with minor injuries. From there, the tornado moved across Bridle Way and Carriage Way where a number of trees were snapped or uprooted, some of which fell onto homes or vehicles. Some homes also lost some singles from their roofs. A metal Stop sign pole was bent in half and the sign was blown away. The tornado then caused damage in Highland Memorial Park Cemetery where a number of large trees were either snapped or uprooted. The damage observed in Johnston was consistent with winds of 90 to 100 mph which is classified as EF-1 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

Finally, the tornado crossed into North Providence. Similar to Johnston, a number of trees were either snapped or uprooted, some falling onto homes or vehicles. Most of the damage observed was to the north of Mineral Spring Avenue. One of the harder hit areas included Lydia Avenue, Armand Drive, and Bennett Street where two homes were made uninhabitable from fallen trees. The damage observed in North Providence was consistent with winds of 90 to 100 mph which is classified as EF-1 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

The National Weather Service would like to thank the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, the Scituate Police Department, the Johnston Police Department, the North Providence Fire Department, and Skywarn Amateur Radio Operators for their assistance with the damage survey.

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...EF-1 Tornado Confirmed in North Attleborough and Mansfield, MA...

The storm that produced the Rhode Island tornado produced a second tornado as it crossed into Massachusetts, just over the Cumberland line in North Attleborough.

Many trees were snapped or uprooted on Mendon Road near the intersection of Monticello Drive. An eyewitness saw swirling debris before taking shelter in her home. From there, damage was more sporadic. A home on Mary Ann Way had its third floor window blown in. Additionally, there were a number of downed or snapped trees on Lisa Drive. The tornado then lifted briefly before touching back down in Mansfield along Gilbert Street, where it sheared several large trees near their tops, one of which fell on a car. An air conditioning unit, estimated to have weighed 1000 pounds, was knocked over on the roof of a one-story commercial building.

The damage observed in North Attleborough and Mansfield was consistent with winds of 80 to 90 mph which is classified as EF-1 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

The National Weather Service would like to thank the North Attleborough Fire Department, Mansfield Fire Department, and Skywarn Amateur Radio Operators for their assistance with the damage survey.

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...EF-0 Tornado Confirmed in Stoughton, MA...

A tornado briefly touched down in Stoughton on Eighth Street and

Corbett Street. Sporadic damage along a short path included fallen trees, one of which fell onto a shed. Part of a fence was blown in.

The damage observed was consistent with winds of 70 to 80 mph which is classified as EF-0 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

The National Weather Service would like to thank the Stoughton Fire Department, our broadcast media partners, and Skywarn Amateur Radio Operators for their assistance with the damage survey.

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...EF-1 Tornado Confirmed in Weymouth, MA...

A tornado touched down in Weymouth near the intersection of Pleasant and Torrey Streets. Numerous trees were uprooted and snapped. A home at the intersection of Burton Terrace and Torrey Street had about twenty singles torn from its roof. On Park Avenue, a three-inch diameter branch from a tree top was blown about 120 yards and driven into the ground to a depth of 2 feet. An eyewitness who received a Wireless Emergency Alert could see swirling debris out a window as she took shelter in her cellar. The tornado lifted near a water tower at the end of Lockwoods Drive.

The damage observed was consistent with winds of 100 to 110 mph which is classified as a higher-end EF-1 tornado on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

The National Weather Service would like to thank the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, the Director and staff of the Weymouth Emergency Management Department, and Skywarn Amateur Radio Operators for their assistance with the damage survey.

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...Storm Damage Still Under Investigation in Scotland, CT...

The National Weather Service in Boston/Norton is working with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to assess storm damage in Scotland, CT which may have been caused by a tornado.

Well over one hundred trees were either downed or sheared off at their tops. Additional information including photos, drone footage, and radar data will be reviewed to make a final determination which should be available on Monday.

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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 200 mph  
EF5...Violent...>200 mph

NOTE:

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

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