

Preliminary summary of damage surveys from the November 15, 2008 tornado outbreak.

...Tornado survey of Sampson County including the Clement Community EF-0 Tornado...

The National Weather Service, in conjunction with Sampson County Emergency management, determined that an EF-0 tornado touched down in western Sampson County near the Clement community. The tornado damage track was discontinuous along an approximately four-mile path that extended from Carroll Store Road just south of Maxwell Road, across Maxwell Road, through several properties between Hayes Mill Road and Baptist Chapel road east of the community of Hays Mill, to just north of Baptist Chapel Road west of state road 1452.

The most significant damage was concentrated at a dwelling along Maxwell road, where trees were snapped, a carport was blown and twisted into trees, and shrubs were pulled from the ground. Much of the damage was consistent with straight-line wind damage, however, the degree of damage at the dwelling on Maxwell Road, the number of snapped trees aloft, and sporadic indication of tree damage perpendicular to the track of the tornado would indicate the likelihood of a tornado. Fortunately, there were no injuries reported. Estimated width of the tornado was 50 yards.

Time/Date: 215 AM - 230 AM EST Saturday November 15, 2008

Tornado: EF-0

Peak Wind: 70 mph

Path Length: 4 miles

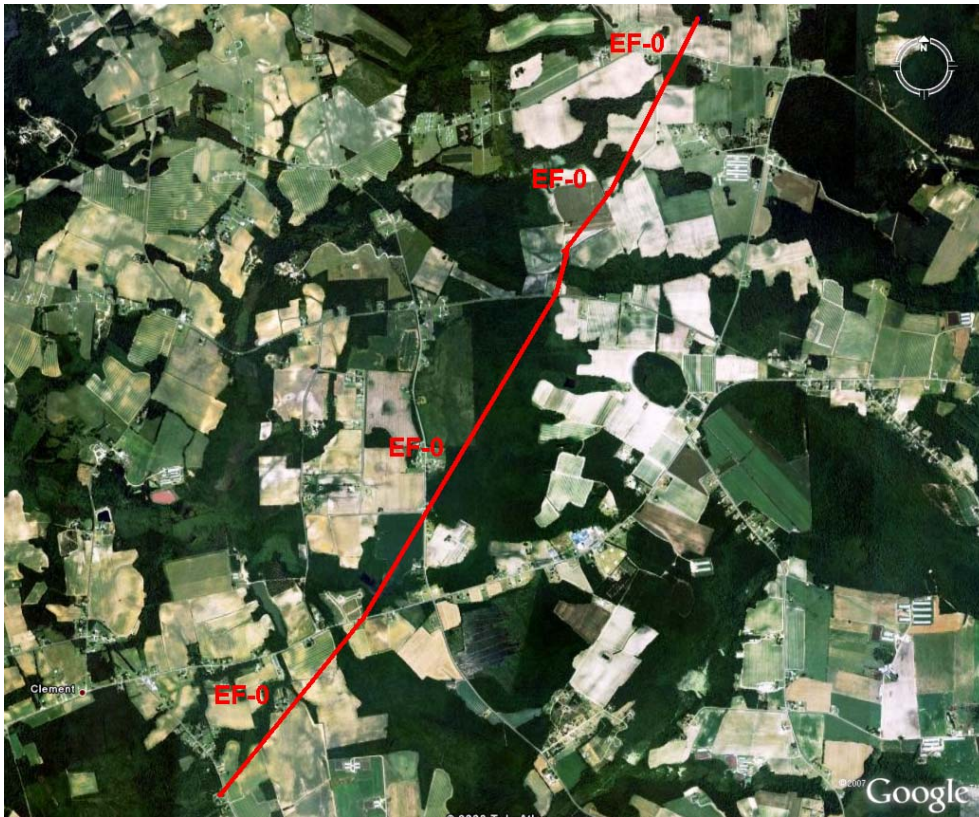
Path Width: 50 yards

Injuries: None

Fatalities: None

Storm damage surveyed just east of Dunn in far northern Sampson County along the Harnett Dunn Highway was coincident with straight line wind damage. In a concentrated area just west of green path road, there were a few instances of minor tree damage, with a couple of the trees and limbs noted to be at least a foot in diameter. Wind speeds were estimated around 60 MPH.

Special thanks are extended to Sampson County emergency services for their assistance during this survey.



Tornado track of the Clement EF-0 tornado

...Tornado Survey of EF-1 Meadows Tornado...

The National Weather Service found that an EF-1 tornado touched down in southwestern Johnston County just south of Blackman Crossroads at 248 AM EST. The tornado damage track was approximately 50 feet wide and extended north-northwest for approximately one mile.

The tornado initially touched down just off Noah Road, where there were several uprooted trees. It traveled north-northwest across bare fields with scattered mature trees for about one half mile and crossed Wood Crossroads, producing significant roof damage to one double-wide mobile home and tearing the porch off a substantial brick single-level home. An occupant of the mobile home confirmed that the damage occurred at 248 AM. There were several mature trees that had been twisted off at mid and upper reaches as well.

The tornado then continued north-northwest across open fields before producing minor damage on Five Points Road to the aluminum skirt of a double-wide mobile home and other minor damage to sheds and storage buildings. There was also some tree damage in this area which knocked down power lines.

Time/Date: 245 AM – 250 AM EST, Saturday November 15, 2008

Peak Wind: 90 mph

Path Length: 1 mile

Path Width: 50 yards

Injuries: None

Fatalities: None



Tornado track of the Meadows EF-1 tornado

...Storm survey of damage near the Pine Level community in Johnston County...

Based on a storm survey conducted by the National Weather Service, it has been determined that straight line winds around 70 MPH produced damage in vicinity of Pine Level. Damage occurred in concentrated areas just south of the intersection of U.S. 70 and Stevens Chapel Road and just north of the intersection of U.S. 70 and Country Store Road. Along Stevens Chapel Road, numerous trees and outbuildings were damaged. Wind was able to break a garage window of one dwelling and blow out a garage door. North, along Country Store Road, there was evidence of mostly minor tree damage, shingle damage, and metal roofing torn from rooftops.

An eyewitness reported the sound of strong winds as the storm hit. Fortunately, there were no reported injuries. The event occurred around 3 AM.

...Tornado Survey of the Kenly – Lucama EF-2 Tornado...

The National Weather Service, in conjunction with Johnston county emergency management, determined that an EF-2 tornado touched down in northern Johnston County just southeast of the town of Kenly. The tornado damage track was about 150 feet wide and stretched for approximately 4.5 miles into southwest Wilson County. The tornado initially touched down around 310 AM just north of Piney Grove Church Road, and damage was limited to minor tree and structural damage. The tornado then tracked northeast, over bare fields and stands of mature trees for about three quarters of a mile, twisting off mature trees, before producing significant damage at the intersection of NC highway 222 and Crumpler Road.

The strongest evidence of EF-2 damage was at this intersection, where a well-constructed single level brick home was destroyed. The entire roof was blown off this home, a large pine tree fell through the center of the house (fortunately into the kitchen area), and all walls on the west side of the house were missing. In addition, one vehicle was flipped upside down and another, with an attached trailer, was moved approximately 30 feet down the driveway. The family of 4 was awakened as the damage occurred, but by great fortune, none sustained any injury.

As the tornado crossed Scott Road, a double-wide mobile home was removed from its foundation and flipped approximately 50 feet. A 50 to 55 year old female occupant of this mobile home was killed, while her husband was transported to a medical facility. His condition was not known. In addition, three other double-wide mobile homes were condemned as they sustained significant structural damage to roofs and southwest-facing exterior walls. In addition, a pickup truck was completely overturned in one of the driveways.

Continuing northeast, the tornado moved across the Kenly International Airport. The tornado was likely aloft at this point, producing EF-1 damage to trees, but there was considerable debris from the homes on Scott Road strewn about the airport grounds. A portion of an open aircraft hangar constructed of sheet tin over a wooden frame was twisted and destroyed. There was also some damage to the Cessna 150 housed in this hangar.

The tornado then crossed into southwest Wilson county causing damage to several mobile homes along Fabwhitley Road. Several other homes in the Lucama area suffered minor damage from the strong winds. The tornado finally lifted off the ground just north of Newsom Mill Road near a local racetrack.

Time/Date: 305 AM – 315 AM Saturday November 15, 2008

Tornado: EF-2

Peak Wind: 135 mph

Path Length: 4.5 miles

Path Width: 50 yards

(approximately 2.5 miles in northern Johnston county and 2 miles into southwestern Wilson county)

Injuries: 2

Fatalities: 1

Special thanks are extended to Johnston county emergency services and the Kenly Fire Department for assistance during this survey and for providing access to the damaged areas.



Tornado track of the Kenly – Lucama EF-2 tornado

...Tornado survey of EF-3 Tornado near Wilson and Elm City in Wilson County...

The National Weather Service, in conjunction with Wilson County emergency services and Wilson Fire and Rescue, determined that an EF-3 tornado occurred in Wilson County. The tornado occurred along a discontinuous, approximately eight-mile path that began with minor roof damage to a dwelling and a snapped tree along Harrison drive just south of Ward Boulevard. The most significant damage was then noted to the northeast, along London Church Road, south of Route 1330.

On London Church Road, one home was completely destroyed and swept off of its foundation. Based on eyewitness accounts and the damage, fire and rescue estimate the home rolled as many as four times. In this home, there was unfortunately one fatality and two injuries.

Across the road from this home to the northeast, the upper portion of a home was destroyed, and another home had a roof completely blown away with trees

on top of it. In this latter home, eyewitness accounts noted there were two more injuries, conditions unknown. Other eyewitness accounts suggested there was little noise with the event until the tornado struck. Several individuals were awake for various reasons around 330 AM, and it was just a few minutes after this when the tornado struck the London Church Road area, estimated to be at 340 AM.

The tornado then followed a discontinuous path into Elm City. There were numerous indications of tree damage in elm city with a porch roof blown off, and outbuildings damaged or toppled. Finally, the last noticeable damage was observed along route 1400, and just north of the intersection of Hefner Road and Route 1402, where small clusters of trees were snapped and outbuildings were damaged. The damage in and northeast of Elm City was consistent with EF-0 damage.

Time/Date: estimated from 330 AM – 345 AM EST Saturday November 15, 2008

Tornado: EF-2

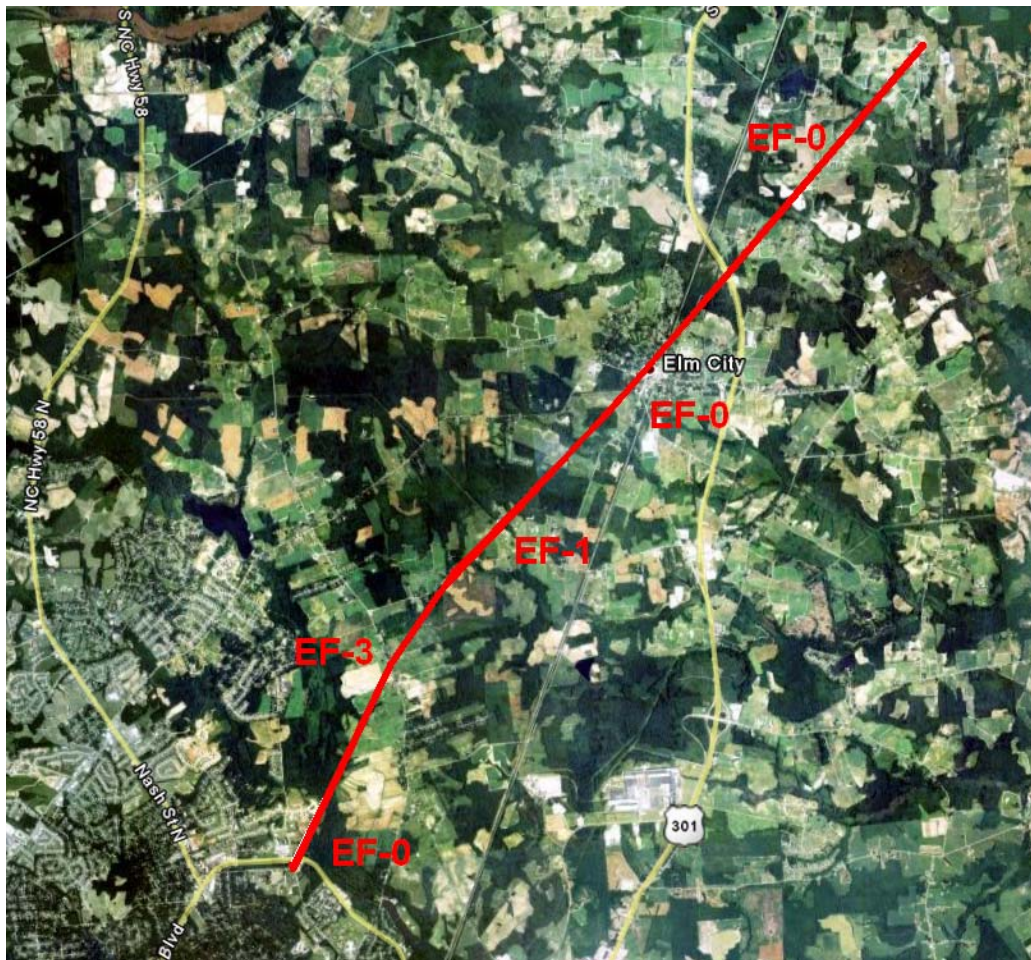
Peak Wind: 140 mph

Path Length: approximately 8 miles, discontinuous

Path Width: 100 yards

Injuries: 4

Fatalities: 1



Tornado track of the Wilson – Elm City EF-3 tornado