



Georgetown County Government

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

Jackie Broach-Akers, MPIO

Phone: (843) 545-3164

E-mail: jbroach@gtcounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three tornadoes touch down in Georgetown County on April 13

GEORGETOWN COUNTY, S.C. – Following a damage survey conducted April 13, it has been determined that three separate tornadoes touched down in Georgetown County during a severe storm that morning. The survey was done by staff from Georgetown County Emergency Management and the National Weather Service office in Wilmington. (The track of each tornado, as determined during the survey, can be viewed on the next page.)

GCEMD and the NWS tracked the storm from around dawn as it moved toward Georgetown from Walterboro. At about 8:15 a.m., rotation was detected near the Sampit community and Nine-Mile Curve, followed minutes later by an additional area of rotation nearby.

At 8:42 a.m., a weather station at the south jetty in Murrells Inlet detected a significant drop in atmospheric pressure, followed nearly simultaneously by a wind gust of 114 mph. This was later confirmed to be a third tornado.

These tornadoes resulted in numerous downed trees and power lines, widespread power outages and damage to several homes and vehicles. Thankfully no deaths or injuries were reported.

Damages from the first tornado were identified between Goldfinch Road and Powell Road. From the survey, it was determined that this tornado tracked northwest, crossing Pennyroyal Road and Highway 521, before lifting off the ground again just northeast of Sollie Circle. It was classified as an EF-1 on the Enhanced Fujita scale, which indicates a wind gust of 86-110 mph that lasted at least three seconds.

The second tornado is believed to have touched down just southeast of Pennyroyal Road. Its track crossed Pennyroyal Road, then went northeast, crossing Highway 521 just east of 8 Oaks Park. It continued northeast across Garrison Road near AgruAmerica before turning east-northeast to Browns Ferry Road and down to Highway 701 near the Francis Marion Store. It is also classified as an EF-1.

The last tornado touched down at Boyle Road and Highway 17 in Litchfield, then tracked east-northeast to cross Trace Drive into Huntington Beach State Park. It then moved out to sea, passing just east of the Murrells Inlet jetty. It has been classified as an EF-2, indicating winds of 111-135 mph.

Damage Assessment

Damage assessment is ongoing. Residents who received damages during the storm can report it online using the S.C. Emergency Management Division's "Emergency Manager" mobile app. It is available in the App Store for iPhones and on Google Play for android devices

Storm Debris

Georgetown County Public Services will not offer curbside pickup for storm debris. The landfill and all community recycling centers are open to accept debris. As always, please do NOT bag vegetative debris. Community Recycling Centers are for residential waste only. Commercial haulers must take debris to the landfill.

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