

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHARLESTON SC  
1042 PM EDT TUE APR 14 2009

...TORNADO CONFIRMED IN MCINTOSH COUNTY GEORGIA...

LOCATION...3 MILES SOUTHEAST OF TOWNSEND GEORGIA  
ESTIMATED TIME...440 PM THROUGH 457 PM EDT  
EF-SCALE RATING...EF-1  
ESTIMATED WIND SPEED...AROUND 100 MPH  
PATH WIDTH...770 YARDS  
PATH LENGTH...8 MILES

INITIAL TOUCHDOWN OF THE TORNADO OCCURRED SOUTH OF THE CREDIT HILL COMMUNITY OF BRIARDAM ROAD AROUND 440 PM EDT...WHICH IS LOCATED ABOUT 3 MILES SOUTHEAST OF TOWNSEND. THE TORNADO TRAVELED TO THE NORTHEAST ACROSS AN OPEN FIELD AND PRODUCED EXTENSIVE TREE DAMAGE TO VARIOUS PINES AND HARDWOODS. THE TORNADO CROSSED BRIARDAM ROAD AND STRUCK THE FIRST CREDIT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH...LIFTING AND DESTROYING ITS LARGE FRONT END PORCH. BOTH THE TREE AND STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO THE CHURCH ARE CONSISTENT WITH AN EF-1 TORNADO ON THE ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE WITH WINDS ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND 100 MPH.

THE TORNADO CONTINUED TO MOVE RAPIDLY NORTHEAST WHILE SKIRTING THE GROUND IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS. THE TORNADO CROSSED HIGHWAY 57 AND PRODUCED TREE AND FENCE DAMAGE TO SEVERAL AREAS ALONG CHURCH OF GOD ROAD...BEFORE CROSSING INTERSTATE 95 AROUND MILE MARKER 61 WHERE ADDITIONAL TREE DAMAGE OCCURRED. THE TORNADO APPEARS TO HAVE LIFTED AROUND 457 PM EDT SHORTLY BEFORE REACHING HIGHWAY 17 NEAR THE INTERSECTION WITH TRAMM ROAD.

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