



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

#### District Of Columbia

Upper Northwest	25	2100EST 2259EST			0	0	1K		Flash Flood
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Tropical moisture, feeding along a south moving cold front, produced training thunderstorms over portions of the Washington metropolitan region during the late evening of the 25th. In general, between 3 and 4 inches of rain fell throughout the event, with at least 2 inches falling just prior to frontal passage around midnight. One spotter in upper Northwest reported just over 4 inches of rain prior to midnight. The rapid accumulation of water brought Rock Creek well out of its banks, with Beach Drive closed through late morning on the 26th.

### MARYLAND, Central

#### Montgomery County

Southwest Portion	01	1555EST 1610EST			0	0	1K		Hail (1.00)
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#### Baltimore County

Towson	01	1605EST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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#### Howard County

Columbia	01	1610EST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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#### Montgomery County

Southeast Portion	01	1610EST 1625EST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
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#### Harford County

Bel Air	01	1612EST			0	0	1K		Hail (1.75)
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#### Prince George'S County

Calverton	01	1630EST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
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A rapidly developing line of low-topped thunderstorms, aided by an unusually steep lapse rate, produced a swath of large hail from the northern suburbs of Washington, DC to northeastern Maryland. The severe storms were triggered by a vigorous cold front. In Montgomery Co, numerous residents reported hail "showers" covering the ground. Nickel to quarter-sized hail affected Bethesda, Potomac, Rockville, Aspen Hill, and Silver Spring in a half-hour period.

As the storms continued east and northeast, one-inch diameter hail fell in Calverton, 3/4 inch diameter hail fell in Columbia and Towson, and golf ball-sized hail fell in Bel Air.

#### MDZ002

##### Allegany

03	1310EST				0	0	5K		High Wind (G54)
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Localized wind gusts of at least 62 mph blew down trees in Cumberland, and knocked an empty tractor trailer rig off Interstate 68 near Flintstone.

#### Prince George'S County

Capitol Heights	06	1130EST			0	0	0		Hail (0.75)
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Dime-sized hail fell briefly in Capitol Heights. Marble-sized hail fell a bit earlier in downtown Washington, DC. One tree fell onto wires near Greenbelt, causing a disruption of service to 2300 Potomac Electric Power customers.

#### Harford County

5 SW Aberdeen	06	1150EST			0	0			Waterspout
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A waterspout touched down briefly in the Bush River near the intersection of federal highway 40 and the Amtrak railroad bridge.

#### Montgomery County

S Portion	25	2100EST 2259EST			0	0			Urban/Sml Stream Fldg
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### VIRGINIA, North

**Arlington County  
Arlington**

06	1120EST				0	0	3K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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One large oak tree and a large limb fell onto a line fuse and a circuit box, respectively, in Arlington. The two downed flora accounted for brief electrical outages to 6500 Virginia Power customers.

**Arlington County  
Shirlington**

25	1652EST 1655EST		1	75	0	0	100K		<b>Tornado (F0)</b>
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**Fairfax County  
E Portion**

25	2100EST 2259EST				0	0			<b>Urban/Small Strm Fldg</b>
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A small, brief tornado, packing winds up to 70 mph, knocked down between 75 and 100 trees and limbs, some of which fell onto residences, vehicles, and other property in South Arlington. Scattered structural damage included aluminum siding, gutters, shingles, and plastic facia.

The tornado began near the fire house, where personnel reported a shed was moved and numerous plastic bags were sucked into the air. At least one large silver maple tree was damaged. More serious damage ensued about 1/4 mile east, where the tornado tracked down a hillside. A large oak split in two, with one of the limbs crashing onto a home on Kenmore St, causing substantial damage. One electrical wire was blown down. Much of the shingle, siding, and gutter damage occurred between Lowell St. and the intersection of Shirlington Blvd. and Glebe Road.

Damage at the intersection included at least ten trees and large limbs that were snapped, with one shallow-rooted tree uprooted and leaning on a residence. That same home had two windows blown out. Two persons at this location witnessed the tornado; the funnel cloud was also seen by the National Airport (DCA) tower, just 3 miles to the east. The storm continued across Glebe Road, knocking down several large poplar tree limbs. At a residence on Fillmore St., a home sustained minor damage from a portion of a large pine tree which fell against its side wall and roof. Several nearby trees and large limbs were also felled.

The twister continued into the Army/Navy Country Club golf course, where it knocked down or snapped an estimated 50 to 60 tree limbs, some up to 2 feet in diameter. Estimated damages at the course were around \$50,000. The funnel lifted moments later.

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### WEST VIRGINIA, East

NONE REPORTED.