

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...CORRECTED
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TALLAHASSEE FL
607 PM EDT TUE APR 14 2009

CORRECTED FINDING IN THE FITZGERALD SURVEY.

...STORM SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN NORTH FLORIDA AND SOUTH GEORGIA
TODAY...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN TALLAHASSEE SENT TWO TEAMS TO SURVEY
STORM DAMAGE ACROSS NORTH FLORIDA AND SOUTH GEORGIA THIS AFTERNOON.

...STORM ONE...SYLVESTER GEORGIA...

THE FIRST STORM SURVEYED WAS IN SYLVESTER GEORGIA. THE DAMAGE IN
SYLVESTER WAS JUST NORTH OF U.S. HIGHWAY 82 NEAR THE COUNTY FIRE
STATION. THE DAMAGE WAS CONFINED TO A SMALL AREA ABOUT 300 YARDS IN
LENGTH. A FEW TREES WERE DOWNED IN THE AREA ALONG WITH SOME DAMAGE
TO AN AWNING AT A GAS STATION. THIS DAMAGE WAS DETERMINED TO BE
CAUSED BY STRAIGHT LINE WINDS WITH AN INTENSITY OF 50 TO 65 MPH. THE
STORM PASSED THROUGH SYLVESTER AROUND 1145 AM EDT.

...STORM TWO...FITZGERALD GEORGIA...

THE SAME STORM THAT PASSED THROUGH SYLVESTER CONTINUED MOVING
NORTHEAST...INTENSIFIED AND PRODUCED ADDITIONAL DAMAGE IN FITZGERALD
GEORGIA. SOUTHWEST OF TOWN A FEW PIVOT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS WERE
DAMAGED. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE OCCURRED IN DOWNTOWN
FITZGERALD. THE BRICK FACADE COLLAPSED ON THE SIDE OF ONE BUILDING.
NUMEROUS TREES WERE EITHER UPROOTED OR SNAPPED. MUCH OF THE DAMAGE
TO STRUCTURES IN THE AREA WERE CAUSED BY FALLEN TREES. SOME OF THESE
LARGE TREES THAT WERE UPROOTED WERE BETWEEN 3 AND 4 FEET IN
DIAMETER.

THE GROUND SURVEY CONCLUDED THAT THE DAMAGE IN THE CITY OF
FITZGERALD WAS DUE TO PRIMARILY TO VERY STRONG STRAIGHT LINE WINDS.
THIS WAS DETERMINED BECAUSE ALL OF THE DAMAGE AND DEBRIS WAS FACING
EASTWARD AFTER THE STORM PASSED WITH NO CONVERGENT SIGNATURE
INDICATED. THIS WAS ALSO SUBSTANTIATED BY AREAL SURVEY CONDUCTED
EARLIER IN THE DAY.

WITH THE SIZE OF THE TREES THAT WERE UPROOTED OR SNAPPED...IT IS
ESTIMATED THIS STORM WAS PRODUCING STRAIGHT LINE WINDS OF 80 TO 90
MPH. THIS IS EQUIVALENT IN INTENSITY TO AN EF-1 TORNADO ON THE
ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE. THE DAMAGE WIDTH WAS AROUND ONE-QUARTER MILE
WITH THE PATH LENGTH OF DAMAGE IN THE AREA BEING CONTINUOUS ACROSS
FITZGERALD. THE STORM PASSED THROUGH FITZGERALD AROUND 1240 PM EDT.

A FUNNEL CLOUD WAS SPOTTED TO THE SOUTHWEST OF FITZGERALD...AND
PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE NOW INDICATES THAT A SMALL TORNADO DID IN FACT
MOVE THROUGH FITZGERALD ITSELF. THIS TORNADO WILL BE ASSIGNED AN EF-1
RATING.

...STORM THREE...CALHOUN COUNTY FLORIDA...

A GROUND SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED ACROSS MUCH OF NORTHERN CALHOUN
COUNTY. WHILE NO EVIDENCE OF A TORNADO WAS DETECTED...A SIGNIFICANT
SWATH OF STRAIGHT LINE WINDS WAS FOUND EXTENDING SEVERAL MILES ALONG
THE LENGTH OF STATE ROAD 20 FROM CLARKSVILLE TO BLOUNTSTOWN. THIS
DAMAGE LENGTH WAS APPROXIMATELY 10 MILES. IN THIS AREA...NUMEROUS
TREES WERE UPROOTED OR SNAPPED. ALL OF THE DAMAGE WAS FOUND TO BE
FACING SOUTHEAST...INDICATIVE OF A STRAIGHT LINE WIND EVENT. WIND
SPEEDS WITH THIS STORM WERE ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN 70 AND 80

MPH...OR EQUIVALENT TO A HIGH END EF-0 TORNADO.

SEVERE HAIL WAS ALSO REPORTED WITH THIS STORM OF AROUND 1 INCH IN DIAMETER.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN TALLAHASSEE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES IN CALHOUN COUNTY FLORIDA AND WORTH AND BEN HILL COUNTIES IN GEORGIA FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION IN CONDUCTING THESE SURVEYS TODAY.

\$\$

GODSEY/MROCZKA/WOOL/WISE