



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



November 2002

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

### ALABAMA, Central

NONE REPORTED.

### ALABAMA, North

**ALZ002-006-019-023>024- Colbert - Madison - Calhoun - Tuscaloosa - Jefferson - Montgomery 044**

**10 1500CST 0 0 0 0 Excessive Heat**

Unseasonably warm air surged northward from the Gulf of Mexico and covered most of north and central Alabama. Record high temperatures of 80 to 85 degrees were recorded across the entire area. As a direct result of this very warm air, a large severe weather outbreak occurred where violent tornadoes developed by early evening. Record high temperatures were measured at the following locations;

Muscle Shoals Municipal Airport 83  
 Huntsville International Airport 82  
 Tuscaloosa Municipal Airport 83  
 Birmingham International Airport 82  
 Anniston Municipal Airport 82  
 Montgomery Dannelly Field 85

Other temperatures measured included:  
 Pryor Field Decatur 83  
 Shelby County Airport Calera 83  
 Troy 83

#### **Fayette County**

**5.6 NNW Fayette to 2.3 WNW Howard 10 1852CST 16.1 1175 0 3 500K 0 Tornado (F3)**  
**1910CST**

#### **Walker County**

**4.5 SW Carbon Hill to 8 E Nauvoo 10 1910CST 16.9 1175 3 20 2.5M 0 Tornado (F3)**  
**1931CST**  
 M53OU, M61MH, F62MH

#### **Winston County**

**3.7 SE Poplar Spgs to 2.5 ESE Arley 10 1931CST 11.3 1175 1 15 200K 0 Tornado (F3)**  
**1945CST**  
 M91PH

The Carbon Hill Tornado was the first tornado of the evening. It began in Fayette County at 6:52 pm, about 5.6 miles north-northwest of the city of Fayette, and 2.8 miles west of US Highway 43. The tornado moved on a northeast track crossing US 43, State Route 129, and SR 13, and then moved into Walker County just southwest of Carbon Hill at 7:10 pm.

It then crossed the western and northern sections of Carbon Hill, downing trees and power lines and damaging many residential structures. Carbon Hill Elementary School was also heavily damaged. The tornado continued northeast, crossing SR5, and exited the county at SR 195. The two deaths associated with this tornado occurred just south of SR 195.

Entering Winston County at 7:31 pm, the tornado continued on a northeast path traveling across mostly sparsely populated areas of Bankhead National Forest and several fingers of Smith Lake. It crossed County Road 41 about 1.8 miles south of Arley and then crossed CR 12, finally lifting at 7:45 pm.

This tornado was rated an F3 on the Fujita scale, with winds estimated to be in the 150 to 200 mph range. Much of the damage along the track was lesser intensity (F1 and F2). F3 damage occurred in both Fayette and Walker Counties.

Total path length for the Carbon Hill Tornado was 44.3 miles, with a width of 1175 yards. Four deaths were reported with this tornado, three in the Rose Hill community of Walker County and one near Arley in Winston County. Injury figures are approximate with three in Fayette County, 20 in Walker County, and 15 in Winston County. About 40 percent of the injuries were treated at local



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### ALABAMA, North

hospitals while about 60 percent of the injuries were considered minor.

Structural damage along the path included approximately 47 in Fayette County, 135 in Walker County, and 35 in Winston County. Numbers are approximate because most reports from Red Cross and EMA were made based on the whole county not by tornad.

Beg: 33 45.949/87 51.069 End: 34 03.992/87 10.409

#### Franklin County

<b>Russellville</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1910CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2K</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G55)</b>
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Trees and power lines were blown down along CR 48 in Russellville.

#### Lauderdale County

<b>Rogersville</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1925CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Hail(0.75)</b>
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Dime size hail fell in Rogersville.

#### Lamar County

<b>7.6 WSW Fernbank to 1.5 NNW Fernbank</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1931CST 1942CST</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>200K</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Tornado (F2)</b>
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The Fernbank Tornado was the second tornado of the evening in Alabama, but it actually began in Mississippi. The tornado crossed the Alabama-Mississippi State Line at 7:31 pm, downing trees in Luxapallila Creek. When it reached County Road 12, a well built home was deroofed along with damage to the upper floor of the house and tremendous tree destruction. The tornado continued on a northeast track, damaging mostly trees before knocking over head stones at the Ebenezer Church and flipping automobiles. The tornado weakened fairly quickly after it passed the church and ended about 7:42 pm

This tornado was rated an F2 in Alabama but was rated an F3 in Mississippi. No deaths and two injuries were reported in the Alabama portion of this tornado.

The path length was 7.2 miles with an estimated width of 150 yards.

#### Winston County

<b>Double Spgs</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1932CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Hail(0.88)</b>
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Nickel size hail was observed near Double Springs.

#### Winston County

<b>Double Spgs to Addison</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1940CST 1950CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Hail(0.75)</b>
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Dime size hail fell along US 278 between Double Springs and Addison.

#### Pickens County

<b>2.5 NW Stafford to 2.9 NE Stafford</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1942CST 1948CST</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5K</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Tornado (F1)</b>
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The third tornado of the evening in Alabama, the Stafford Tornado, moved into Pickens County from Mississippi, at 7:42 pm just northwest of Stafford. This tornado, rated an F1 in Alabama, stayed over mostly rural land downing trees. The path length in Alabama was 4.5 miles, and the width about 75 yards. No deaths or injuries were reported in Alabama.

Beg: 33 27.623/88 17.036 End: 33 28.267/88 12.269

#### Cullman County

<b>Crane Hill</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1955CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Hail(0.75)</b>
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Dime size hail was reported across western Cullman County.



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### ALABAMA, North

#### Fayette County

6 NNE Fayette to 2.7 SE Howard	10	2015CST 2034CST	14.6	1175	0	0	200K	0	Tornado (F3)
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#### Walker County

5.8 W Townley to 13.3 NE Jasper	10	2034CST 2103CST	24.7	1175	7	40	2.5M	0	Tornado (F3)
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F39MH, F15MH, M50MH, M51MH, F73MH, F38MH, F61MH

#### Winston County

6.9 SSE Arley to 7.6 SE Arley	10	2103CST 2108CST	2.4	1175	0	5	300K	0	Tornado (F3)
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#### Cullman County

8.2 W Bremen to 1 SE Holly Pond	10	2108CST 2152CST	30.9	1175	0	8	1.3M	0	Tornado (F3)
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The Saragossa Tornado was the fourth tornado to occur in Alabama and the longest track of the severe weather episode. It began in Fayette County, just east of the Sipsey River about 6 miles north-northeast of the city of Fayette at 8:15 pm. The tornado moved northeast, crossing portions of State Routes 102 and 13, and then SR 102 again around Stoddards Crossroads.

The tornado crossed into Walker County at 8:34 pm and traveled through sparsely populated areas of western Walker County. It crossed the interchange of US Highway 78 about 5.5 miles east-southeast of Carbon Hill, and became very strong as it traveled through the Saragossa area. It crossed State Roads 5, 195, and 257, before entering Winston County.

The tornado appeared to be at its most intense during the travel from US 78/SR 118 interchange across Saragossa and the areas near SR 5 and SR 195. Seven deaths occurred in this 10 mile stretch of the tornado track, along with an estimated 40 injuries.

At 9:03 pm the tornado crossed the extreme southeastern tip of Winston County, crossing a part of Smith Lake

The tornado entered Cullman County at 9:08 pm, moving across portions of Smith Lake and across CR 222. Tornado intensity remained high during the first several miles after it entered Cullman County. Continuing northeast, it crossed Interstate 65 and US 31 just south of Cullman on the southside of the Cullman Golf Course.

The tornado seemed to be significantly less intense as it continued to travel northeasterly toward Holly Pond. Damage from just east of US 31 to just south of Holly Pond was not nearly as intense as it was west of Interstate 65. Traveling through mostly rural areas downing trees and powerlines, and damaging scattered structures along the way, the tornado finally ended just south-southeast of Holly Pond at 9:52 pm,

This was the longest tornado of the outbreak, with a path length of 72.6 miles and a width of 1100 yards. It was the second F3 tornado of the day. Seven deaths were reported with the storm, all in Walker County, along with an estimated 45 injuries

Structural damage details are difficult to report since reporting is based primarily on county and not by individual tornadoes. Based on EMA and Red Cross data, structures damaged or destroyed were approximately 20 in Fayette County, 300 in Walker County, 5 in Winston County, and 164 in Cullman County.

This is also one of the longest tornadoes tracks in recent history. At 72.6 miles in length, this becomes the fourth longest tornado in Alabama since 1950.

Beg: 33 45.072/87 45.991 End: 34 09.775/86 36.403



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### ALABAMA, North

#### Pickens County

4.3 WSW Ethelsville to 2.3 WSW Ethelsville	10	2015CST 2018CST	2	40	0	0	0	0	Tornado (F0)
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An F1 tornado moved out of Mississippi into Alabama about 4.3 miles west-southwest of Ethelsville. The weak tornado was the fifth tornado of the evening in Alabama and moved across mostly wooded and clear cut areas downing a few trees. The tornado damage in Alabama was only F0.

Beg: 33 24.268/88 17.425 End: 33 24.682/88 15.352

#### Lawrence County

Moulton	10	2015CST			0	0	1K	0	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
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A few trees were blown down around Moulton.

#### Cullman County

Vinemont	10	2017CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.75)
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Dime size hail fell near Folsom Field.

#### Franklin County

Countywide	10	2035CST			0	0	4K	0	Thunderstorm Wind (G55)
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#### Franklin County

Red Bay	10	2035CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.75)
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Dime size hail was reported in Red Bay. A few trees and power lines were knocked over in other parts of the county.

#### Marshall County

4 E Union Grove	10	2046CST			0	0	0	0	Funnel Cloud
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A funnel cloud was reported 4 miles east of Union Grove.

#### Tuscaloosa County

5 SE Moores Bridge	10	2057CST			0	0	0	0	Funnel Cloud
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A funnel cloud was sighted by spotters near the Brownville Community.

#### Fayette County

4.6 ESE Berry to 9 E Berry	10	2110CST 2115CST	4.3	90	0	0	45K	0	Tornado (F1)
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The sixth tornado of the evening, the Boley Springs Tornado, occurred in extreme southeast Fayette County beginning at 9:10 pm. The tornado first touched down on the south side of County Road 46 about a mile west of Boley Springs. The tornado crossed CR 46 going across the north side of Boley Springs. A lumber mill was damaged along with a mobile home. Numerous trees were downed

The tornado then moved into open country where additional trees were downed. It ended around 9:15 pm about 3.9 miles east-northeast of Boley Springs. This was rated an F1 tornado, with a path length of 4.3 miles and width of 90 yards. No injuries or deaths were reported with this tornado.

#### Walker County

3.5 SW Dora to .8 NE Dora	10	2138CST 2147CST	4.3	300	0	0	400K	0	Tornado (F1)
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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

### ALABAMA, North

The Dora Tornado, the seventh tornado of the evening, began at 9:38 pm, when the tornado touched down on the banks of the Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior River southwest of Dora. The initial touchdown was in an area of open fields and woods and the first structural damage occurred as the tornado reached the southwest side of Dora. Trees were downed with a good deal of roof damage to homes as the tornado traveled through the middle of Dora. Traveling northeast the tornado damaged a number of structures in Dora, before ending fairly abruptly on the northeast side of town at 9:47 pm.

The total path length was 4.3 miles, with a width of 300 yards. No deaths were reported, and any injuries were minor. This tornado was rated an F1.

Beg: 33 42.221/87 08.654 End: 33 44.096/87 04.761

#### **Marshall County**

**5 SE Arab**

<b>10</b>	<b>2145CST</b>								
		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125K</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G65)</b>			

Two chicken houses were heavily damaged on Fry Gap Road (CR 44).

#### **Dekalb County**

**Countywide**

<b>10</b>	<b>2145CST</b>								
		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3K</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G55)</b>			

A few trees and power lines were blown down across the county.

#### **Tuscaloosa County**

**4.7 NNE Northport to  
9.5 NE Northport**

<b>10</b>	<b>2159CST 2206CST</b>								
		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200K</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G65)</b>			

The roof was blown off an apartment complex on Rice Mine Road. Ten apartments were subsequently damaged by heavy rain. The roof pieces landed on 7 automobiles causing major damage to the vehicles. A gas station awning was ripped off and carried several hundred yards away. Several trees and power lines were blown down in the area. The Collins-Riverside School sustained moderate damage as part of the roof was torn off and the rooms were flooded.

#### **Blount County**

**1.4 SW Allgood to  
6 E Oneonta**

<b>10</b>	<b>2222CST 2231CST</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>300</b>						
		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>400K</b>	<b>2K</b>	<b>Tornado (F1)</b>			

#### **Etowah County**

**8.1 SW Gallant to  
7.4 SW Gallant**

<b>10</b>	<b>2231CST 2232CST</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>300</b>						
		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4K</b>	<b>1K</b>	<b>Tornado (F1)</b>			

The F1 rated Oneonta Tornado began at 10:22 pm, about 1.4 miles southwest of Allgood just west of State Route (SR) 75. The tornado traveled across Allgood, downing trees and doing some damage to structures. It traveled across Boat Landing Road where trees were downed and then crossed Springville Boulevard where several structures were damaged. The tornado then clipped the southeastern sections of Oneonta before turning more easterly.

The tornado crossed County Road 29, where two more structures were damaged, and then crossed US Highway 231. Additional trees were downed along Montgomery Drive. The tornado continued to down trees as it dissipated just after moving into Etowah County, ending at 10:32 pm.

The path length of this tornado was 10.6 miles, with a width of about 300 yards. No deaths or injuries were reported. However, Blount County Emergency Management did report that two cows were killed by falling trees.

Beg: 33 53.764/86 31.771 End: 33 56.588/86 21.437



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### ALABAMA, North

#### Tuscaloosa County

3.2 NW Abernant to 3.6 NNE Abernant	10	2222CST 2229CST	2.9	450	0	3	300K	0	Tornado (F2)
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#### Jefferson County

9.6 W Mc Calla to 1.8 SSW Bessemer	10	2229CST 2243CST	12.3	450	0	0	500K	0	Tornado (F2)
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The Abernant Tornado first touched down in Tuscaloosa County in a wooded area west of County Road 99 around 10:22 pm. The tornado traveled east-northeast, damaging structures on Ridge Road before crossing into Jefferson County

The tornado entered Jefferson County at 10:29 pm, and damaged structures in the North Johns and Sumter areas before damaging a manufacturing facility just southwest of VisionLand Theme Park. The tornado crossed Interstate 59 and US Highway 11 where additional houses and businesses sustained minor damage. The tornado ended at this point at 10:43 pm.

This F2 tornado had a path length of 15.2 miles, 2.9 miles in Tuscaloosa County and 12.3 miles in Jefferson County. The path width was about 450 yards. Three injuries were reported in Tuscaloosa County.

Beg: 33 19.740/87 13.724 End: 33 22.873/86 58.362

#### Etowah County

Countywide	10	2230CST 2300CST			0	0	5K	0	Thunderstorm Wind (G55)
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A few trees and power lines were blown down across the county.

#### St. Clair County

3.1 WNW Steele to 1.3 N Steele	10	2241CST 2244CST	3.2	50	0	0	40K	0	Tornado (F1)
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A weak tornado touched down on Chandler Mountain causing minor damage to about three houses and downing several trees. The tornado came off the mountain (plateau) and damaged one structured and downed trees at the base of the mountain before dissipating. No injuries were reported.

Beg: 33 57.002/86 15.331 End: 33 57.482/86 11.950

#### St. Clair County

Countywide	10	2250CST 2315CST			0	0	2K	0	Thunderstorm Wind (G55)
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A few trees and power lines were blown down across the county. One home suffered minor roof damage, one home had major roof damage, and two out buildings were destroyed.

#### Cherokee County

3.4 SE Centre to 12.3 E Centre	10	2320CST 2332CST	10.5	440	1	4	1.2M	0	Tornado (F2)
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### ALABAMA, North

Based on the pattern of damage, and reports from witnesses, the damage near the Marbury community in northeastern Autauga County was assessed as being caused by straight line winds. The damage area begins near the intersection of County Roads 68 and 69, just west of Interstate 65, and continues in a fan-shaped pattern eastward about 1.5 miles across US Highway 31. The damage area was about 400 yards wide, at its widest point.

A total of 5 homes, 2 travel trailers, 1 barn, and one vehicle sustained damage. Also, powerlines were down across the entire damage area. There were no injuries reported. Based on witness accounts and radar signatures, the damage occurred around 2 AM Monday morning.

#### **Tallapoosa County**

<b>Jacksons Gap</b>	11	0245CST			0	0	3K	0	<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G55)</b>
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Several trees and power lines were blown down across central Tallapoosa County. A funnel cloud was reported near Jackson's Gap.

#### **Randolph County**

<b>Roanoke</b>	11	0256CST			0	0	0	0	<b>Hail(0.75)</b>
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Dime size hail fell in Roanoke.

#### **Elmore County**

<b>Titus</b>	11	0315CST			0	0	20K	0	<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G60)</b>
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One home had its roof blown off in Titus. Several trees were blown down across the county.

### ALABAMA, Southeast

#### **Dale County**

<b>2 N Echo to 2 S Bertha</b>	05	1815EST 1820EST	2	100	0	3	150K		<b>Tornado (F1)</b>
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A tornado touched down just north of the intersection of County Road 69 and Highway 27 in northeast Dale County. It damaged several homes, an automobile, and several storage sheds. Three people suffered minor injuries. Two goats were killed by the flying debris. Dale County was declared a state disaster area. Reported by the Dale County EMA.

#### **Henry County**

<b>3 W Abbeville to 3 NE Abbeville</b>	05	1835EST 1845EST	6	200	1	20	3M		<b>Tornado (F2)</b>
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The supercell thunderstorm which spawned the tornado in Dale County, produced another tornado which touched down just west of U.S. Highway 431, and tore through the center of Abbeville. It destroyed several single-family homes and mobile homes, and severely damaged numerous other homes and businesses, including the high school. Uprooted trees and power lines littered city streets, with nearly 2,000 residents without electricity. Twenty people were injured, with a half of those hospitalized. A man died when the tornado destroyed his home on Rock Hill Circle. Henry County was declared a state disaster area. Reported by the Henry County EMA. M54PH

### ALABAMA, Southwest

#### **Clarke County**

<b>Bashi</b>	05	1040CST 1045CST	0.1	20	0	0	8K		<b>Tornado (F0)</b>
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A weak tornado briefly touched down just east of the community near County Road 48. A few trees were blown down or uprooted by the tornado.





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### ALABAMA, Southwest

#### Conecuh County

<b>Lenox</b>	05	1130CST 1135CST	0.1	20	0	0	8K		<b>Tornado (F0)</b>
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A weak tornado briefly touched down near the community, blowing down or uprooting several trees.

#### Butler County

<b>Georgiana</b>	05	1200CST 1205CST	0.5	50	0	0	8K		<b>Tornado (F0)</b>
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A weak tornado resulted in a swath of downed trees in a wooded area between Georgiana and Avant.

#### Mobile County

<b>Tillmans Corner</b>	05	1255CST 1300CST			0	0	2K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G55)</b>
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Strong thunderstorm winds downed several large tree limbs in the area of Schillinger and Three Notch Roads. A funnel cloud was also reported by the public in the same general area.

#### Mobile County

<b>Theodore</b>	05	1255CST 1259CST			0	0	1K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G55)</b>
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Gusty thunderstorm winds blew large limbs down around the area.

#### Baldwin County

<b>Daphne</b>	05	1330CST 1335CST			0	0	15K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G60)</b>
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Strong thunderstorm winds damaged the roof of a condo.

#### Baldwin County

<b>Barnwell</b>	05	1340CST 1345CST	0.1	20	0	0	10K		<b>Tornado (F0)</b>
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A weak tornado downed trees and power lines near the Barnwell community. The same storm produced some minor roof damage and downed more trees near Elsanor a few minutes later.

#### Choctaw County

<b>Gilbertown</b>	10	1615CST 1616CST			0	0	5K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G50)</b>
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Trees were blown down by high winds from a thunderstorm just west of Gilbertown.

#### Mobile County

<b>Georgetown</b>	15	1645CST 1646CST			0	0	5K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G50)</b>
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A few trees were blown down just north of Georgetown.

#### Choctaw County

<b>Wimberly</b>	15	1700CST 1702CST			0	0	5K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G50)</b>
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Trees were blown down by high winds from a thunderstorm.