
**Confirmed Tornado
Florence, Ontario
October 4, 1985**

Date- Local: Friday, October 4th, 1985.

UTC: Friday, October 4th, 1985.

Time-Local: 16:30

UTC: 20:30

Location: Florence, Lambton county

Region: Sarnia - Lambton

Classification: Confirmed Tornado

Category: G

Casualties: None

Track Length: None Available

Width: None Available

Motion: None Available

Damage Estimate: None Available

F-Scale Rating: F1

Code: MB

Damage Survey: None

Spotter Reports: None

Other Documents:

Logged event citing tornado as the event.

Summer Severe Storm Survey conducted by Windsor Weather office in response to eyewitness reports. Also attached are damage photographs and hand drawn map.

Tornado F-Scale Assessment

Marci Vanhoucke

Tornado Data Production Assistant, Environment Canada

July 21, 2005.

Classification: Confirmed Tornado

Date: Friday, October 4th, 1985.

Location: Florence, Sarnia – Lambton

Assessment: F1

F-Code: BS

Explanation of Assessment: There is a Summer Severe Storm Survey (including photos of damage) conducted by the Windsor weather office detailing an eyewitness account of the tornado and the damage that occurred. Damage was contained to a galvanized metal storage shed that was completely demolished except for the back and west wall. Due the damage described, this tornado is rated an F1.

CLASSIFICATION: Severe Thunderstorm

SOURCE/WATCHER ID:

EVENT TIME (UTC): 20-30 **EVENT DAY:** 4.0 **MONTH:** 10.0 **YEAR:** 1985.0 **EVENT DURATION (HR):** 0.0 **(MIN):** 0.0

DAY OF THE WEEK:

EVENT LOCALE: Florence, Lambton Co.

ASOCTD PUBLIC RGN: Sarnia-Lambton

DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

INITIAL ASSESSMENT: YES

SPL WX STATEMENT IN EFFECT ?: UKN **STATEMENT LEAD TIME (HR):** (MIN):

WATCH IN EFFECT ?: UKN **WATCH LEAD TIME (HR):** (MIN):

WARNING IN EFFECT ?: UKN **WARNING LEAD TIME (HR):** (MIN):

TORNADO:

WINDSPEED:

RAINFALL: MM **RAIN DURATION:**

HAIL DIAMETER: MM **HAIL DESCRIPTION:**

EVENT DESCRIPTION: Tornado

Mesoscale ?: **Synoptic ?:** **Big Event ?:**

Statement Est Hit/Miss:

Watch Est Hit/Miss:

Warning Est Hit/Miss:

Separate Event (30km/30min): YES

Vetted by:

Vetted date:

Summer Severe Storm Survey

NAME OF INVESTIGATOR W.J. Adamson	INVESTIGATOR'S PHONE (519) 969-7585	DATE OF INVESTIGATION 4 October 1985
INVESTIGATOR'S ADDRESS Windsor Weather Office, RR#1, Windsor Ontario		

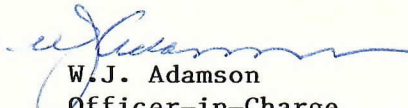
1.	NAME(S) OF PERSON(S) INTERVIEWED Ms. Ann Bookin			
	El;liot Farm Equipment Company, Florence , Ontario			
2.	ADDRESS (NOT RR#) OF THIS LOCATION Lot Con. Twp Co. or # street, town			
3.	PHONE NUMBER OF PERSON INTERVIEWED (519) 692-4969 - Work (519) 692-4358 - Home Area Code Number			
4.	(a) TIME AND DATE OF THE EVENT AT THIS LOCATION October 4th, 1985 at approximately 17:20 local			
	(b) HOW WAS THE TIME DETERMINED (STOPPED CLOCK, POWER FAILURE, MEMORY, A TIME-FIXING EVENT ETC) Just leaving work to go home			
5.	DESCRIPTION OF THE DAMAGE A galvanized metal storage shed approximately 90-100 feet long by 30 feet wide . Back height about 8 feet with the front height 15-18 feet.			
6.	VISUAL SKY COLOUR? Y or N if yes, describe The sky turned very black very quickly			
7.	(a) HAIL? Y or No No precipitation- no thunder- no hail			
	(b) HAIL SIZE (CIRCLE) PEA GRAPE WALNUT GOLF BALL TENNIS BALL OTHER UNKNOWN DIAMETER(MM)			
8.	RAIN, HOW MUCH? Nil			
9.	(a) COMMENTS ON RELIABILITY OF WITNESS REPORTS Good- Co-owner of the Company(Elliot Farm Equipment)			
	(b) DOES WITNESS KNOW OF OTHERS WHO WERE AFFECTED BY OR WITNESSED STORM? If yes: No			
	Name	Address	Phone#	
0.	ANY INJURIES RELATED TO STORM No			
1.	DOES EVIDENCE INDICATE NEED FOR DETAILED ON-SITE SURVEY? Y or N If Y contact Severe Weather MT OWC No			

(over)

Florence is a small rural community north of the village of Thamesville on highway 26 and #1. It consist of one main thorough-fare running north and south and it was on the east side of this thorough-fare in the centre of the community that this incident occurred . Elliot Farm Equipment is a small dealer handling everything from small tractors to large combines. Their garage and storage shed which is completely demolished except for the back and west wall was constructed of 2X6 2X8 and 4X4 timbers covered with galvanized sheet metal. The front of the building faced south and was approximately 15-18 feet high by 90-100 feet in length while the back wall was approximately 8 feet high. The roof - front sliding doors and east wall were completely destroyed with splintered and broken timbers strewn about the lot . The galvanized sheet metal was bent and twisted and in some cases wrapped around the large ties of combines parked to the north. Debris of wood metal etc., was confined mainly within the area of the lot which was paced off to be approximately 250 feet by 250 feet.

A decorative fruit tree on a lawn adjacent to and 100 feet north of the shed still retained clusters of berries and was unscathed. Buildings approximately 95 feet to the south of the demolished shed, of similar construction were not affected.

Ms. Ann Bookin who is co-owner of the business has her sales office directly across the street from the lot witnessed the building's roof being torn off as she had just stepped outside to depart for the day at 17:20. She stated debris and dust and gravel appeared to be swirling in a circular fashion such as one might see from a dust devil on a hot summer day. The sky turned very black very quickly . The storm moved from south-west to north-east. It is interesting to note that a similar phenomena occurred north of Wheatley on the same day at approximately 16:45 to 17:00 as reported by Mrs. Hyatt. (see report by W.J. Adamson and P.C. McCallum on this incident) It is of further interest to note that we recorded a maximum temperature of 20.0 degrees at 0000 G.M.T. and between 20:00 and 21:00 G.M.T. we fell 6 degrees from 17.9 to 11.9. Winds shifted from 180 degrees briefly to 240 degrees but then backed again to 190-200 degrees. Maximum gust recorded were to 39 knots at 20:07 G.M.T. . With regards to the radar picture between 1600 and 1700 local , as viewed at Windsor there was nothing noteworthy was indicated except levels 1-3 precipitation moving across Essex and Kent counties.


W.J. Adamson
Officer-in-Charge
Windsor Weather Office

Attachment: Map / Photographs
cc A/OAEWR nil photographs

Centre of Municipality
Centre de la municipalité

Metropolitan Area - Agglomération

Provincial Boundary
Frontière provinciale

International Boundary
Frontière internationale

TRAVEL AND TOURIST VOYAGE ET TOURISME

Kilometre Distance
Distance en kilomètres

Major Tourist Attractions
Principales attractions touristiques
Hospital - Hôpital

Ontario Provincial Police
Detachments - Détachement de la
Gendarmerie d'Ontario

Border Crossing Point d'accès
Major Airport - Aéroport principal
Minor Airport - Aéroport secondaire
Travel Information Centre
Centre d'information touristique

PARKS PARCS

Federal, Provincial Park
Parc fédéral, provincial

Provincial Park, Campground
Parc provincial, Terrain de camping

Provincial Park, Day Use Only
Parc provincial, Ouvert le jour

Other Government Park, Camping
Autres parcs gouvernementaux, camping

Conservation Area, Camping
Site protégé, camping

Les petits agrandissements urbains et
régionaux sont destinés à indiquer les
itinéraires urbains et les zones
surchargées. Les cartes urbaines ne
sont pas des cartes complètes des villes.

TRAVEL AND TOURIST VOYAGE ET TOURISME

Service Centre - Centre de service

Picnic Area - Terrain de pique-nique

St. John Ambulance First Aid Post
Poste de premiers soins de
l'Ambulance Saint-Jean

Nursing Station - Centre de soins

Ferry Service - Traversier

Commuter Parking - Parc de
stationnement pour covoiturage
Railway (Northern Ontario)
Voie ferrée (Nord de l'Ontario)

TOURIST ROUTES ITINÉRAIRES TOURISTIQUES

Algonquin

Blue Water

Frontier

Heritage Highway - Route des Pionniers

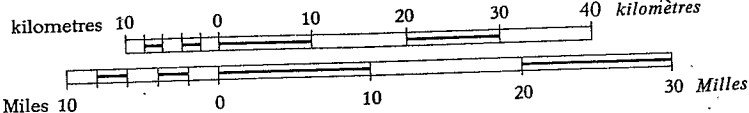
Loyalist Parkway

Rideau-Trent-Severn

Talbot Trail

Voyageur - Circuit des Explorateurs

Scale 1:800,000 Echelle



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