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**Confirmed Tornado  
Midland, Ontario  
June 23, 2010**

**Date- Local:** Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

**UTC:** Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

**Time- Local:** 1820

**UTC:** 2220

**Location:** Midland

**Region:** Barrie - Orillia - *Midland*

**Classification:** Confirmed Tornado

**Category:** A

**Casualties:** None

**Track Length:** 25690 m

**Width:** 850 m

**Motion:** 260 degrees

**Damage Estimate:** \$15 million

**F-Scale Rating:** F2

**Code:** MH

**Damage Survey:** Yes

**Spotter Reports:** Yes

**Other Documents:**

OSPC storm damage survey and filed notes

Damage photos + photo of tornado

Event log with timeline of events + watches and warnings issued

Newspaper articles detailing tornado track damages and estimated cost

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## **Tornado F-Scale Assessment**

Brad L. Rousseau

Tornado Data Production Assistant, Environment Canada

June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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**Classification:** Confirmed Tornado

**Date:** Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

**Location:** Midland, Barrie - Orillia Region

**Assessment:** F2

**F-Code:** MH

**Explanation of Assessment:** 60 mobile homes that were completely destroyed and another 50 that were left inhabitable. Seven permanent modular homes were also damaged either by flying debris or direct wind damage. The average length of the mobile homes that were residing in the affected area was approximately 35ft and very few if any were anchored to the ground. Countless mobile homes of such length were rolled over, uplifted and relocated several tens of meters away from their original location. Many had incurred so much damage that they were no longer recognizable. The inner contents of the destroyed mobile homes were littered throughout the affected area.

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# OSPC Storm Damage Survey Report

<b>Investigators</b>	<i>Dave Sills</i>	<i>Dan Clarke</i>
<b>Location and Region</b>		<i>Barrie - Orillia - Midland</i>
<b>Event Date Local and UTC (YYMMDD)</b>	<i>100623</i>	<i>100623</i>
<b>Event Time Local and UTC</b>	<i>1820</i>	<i>2220</i>
<b>Severe Weather Event Type</b>	<i>Tornado</i>	
<b>Classification</b>	<i>Confirmed</i>	
<b>F-scale Value</b>	<i>2</i>	
<b>F-scale Code</b>	<i>MH</i>	
<b>Start Lat and Long</b>	<i>44.713</i>	<i>-80.024</i>
<b>End Lat and Long</b>	<i>44.749</i>	<i>-79.703</i>
<b>Path Length (m)</b>	<i>25690</i>	
<b>Motion (degrees)</b>	<i>260</i>	
<b>Max. Path Width (m)</b>	<i>850</i>	
<b>Avg. Path Width (m)</b>	<i>640</i>	
<b>Human Injuries / Fatalities</b>	<i>15 injuries 8 of which were considered serious but none were deemed critical</i>	<i>no fatalities were recorded</i>
<b>Animal Injuries / Fatalities</b>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<b>Damage (\$K) / Source</b>	<i>\$ 15 million</i>	<i>Philip Ling, Canwest News Service and CBC</i>

## Damage Description

A single snapped tree trunk of a mature tree located approximately 141m inland from Rowntree Beach was first identified as the western boundary of the damage track. Intermittent tree branch damage and mature tree uprooting were observed along Concession Rd. 12 extending to Hwy 6. At the intersection of Concession Rd. 12 and Hwy 6 evidence of uplifted debris including a backyard trampoline and timber were observed over 50m from the nearest dwelling. Minor structural damage and peeling off of roofing and metal veneer siding was recorded 400m south of the intersection at a farm house property on Hwy 6.

The Balm Beachway Golf Club located at 250 Concession 11 East received extensive tree damage to their property. According to a report by Don Wylie, an employee of the Golf Club, the tornado had caused a concentrated track of damage approximately 550m in width across the golf property resulting in over 200 trees being damaged through snapping off at their base or by being uprooted. No wind caused structural damage was reported. The damage swath continued eastbound with sightings of minor roof and shingle damage along with mature uprooted trees that were blown over in varying directions. Extensive structural damage was detected at an industrial compound situated at 6933 County Rd. 93. Here, the majority of roof material was peeled off of three independent buildings. The northernmost building that was affected in this region was a warehouse building covered by a triangular and tin plated roof. The dimensions of the building were 32m long by 12m wide. While the majority of the roof was removed, the walls themselves maintained their integrity. The other two buildings affected in the area were located slightly south of the warehouse and both had had their flat roofs uplifted and entirely removed. The brick and cinderblock masonry walls did not fail but a portion of the southernmost structure had collapsed where the walls were constructed from a weaker material. Toppled over power lines and mature trees lined the streets north and south of this property and an estimated damage track of 790m was measured. Evidence of a E-350 super duty Ford Truck that was uplifted and dropped 28m northeast of its original location was found in the eastern parking lot of the property.

The structural damage resulting from the tornado was most severe within the township of Midland, specifically within Smith's Trailer Park where the tornado first struck at the southern portion of the park just east of Little Lake. Within the approximate calculated affected area of 0.023km<sup>2</sup>, there were a reported 60 mobile homes that were completely



destroyed and another 50 that were left inhabitable. Seven permanent modular homes were also damaged either by flying debris or direct wind damage. The average length of the mobile homes that were residing in the affected area was approximately 35ft and very few if any were anchored to the ground. Countless mobile homes of such length were rolled over, uplifted and relocated several tens of meters away from their original location. Many had incurred so much damage that they were no longer recognizable. The inner contents of the destroyed mobile homes were littered throughout the affected area. One 42ft long trailer was discovered on Vics Rd. where the permanent modulated homes were located. The mobile home had been uplifted and displaced a minimum of 100m from any potential point of origin where the mobile homes reside in the southern portion of the park. One witness mentioned that another trailer had been thrown even further but no pictures were obtained. A recognizable convergent pattern emerged near the centre of damage within the park. Whereas the trees and mobile homes that were originally located in the southern regions of the affected area were pulled northward, an opposite southerly pull drew in trees and vehicles from the northern regions of the park. Extensive car damage was also sustained either by trailers striking them or by tornado uplift and tossing. Most of the large trees once standing had been uprooted and few mobile homes in the affected area were left standing or unaffected in the area found west of Vics Rd. and southeast of Ryans Rd. where the damage was most dramatic. Isolated modular home properties on Vics Rd and Northland Rd. were affected with shingle, siding and roof damage. One property located on Northland Rd. had been entirely collapsed by the impact of the tornado and a second modular home that was anchored to the ground with steel hooks had been completely uprooted and displaced striking its neighbouring home.

The local businesses that lined King St. also sustained widespread damage. A reported 100 local businesses and large factories found on King St. on the town's north east side were included in the damage swath and incurred broken windows, removed shingles, peeling off of veneer siding, ease trough removal, and stripping off of roofing materials. In addition to numerous trees being uprooted and power lines collapsing, an important site of severe damage is the Ideal Supply building located 300m north of Hwy 12. This building received complete damage to all of its windows and the majority of its metal roof structure was removed. Portions of the solid cinder block masonry walls in the northwest and southeast corner had completely failed and collapsed

*in on itself exposing the interior of the building. The foundation itself had been uplifted and corrugated metal from the roof structure had been thrown approximately 128m in a south eastern direction. Further extensive damage along King St. included the removal of roof material at the Honda dealership situated opposite to the Ideal Supply building and the loss of dozens of cars found within the dealership property. Two 53ft tractor trailers were also observed on their side near the intersection of King St. and Hwy 12.*

*The damage track continued eastward from King Street affecting commercial buildings and mature trees both north and south of Hwy 12. Large tree uprooting, the shearing off of tree tops, downed power lines, damaged transformers and commercial siding damage were all common features of the Hwy 12 roadside travelling eastward from King. Significant structural damage observed towards the eastern boundary of the damage transect was observed at Baytech Plastics situated 330m east of the intersection of William St. and Hwy 12. At this location, an estimated 60% of the outer cinder block masonry wall facing the street had been punctured and further metal siding had been peeled off the higher portions of the building. Intermittent tree damage and uprooted trees were observed along the Hwy 12 transect in what appeared to be a diminishing damage track before terminating just short of the community of Waubaushene.*

**Other Notes**

*Several eye witnesses observed the vortex make contact with the ground. Several photos of the wedge shaped funnel cloud have also been retrieved.*

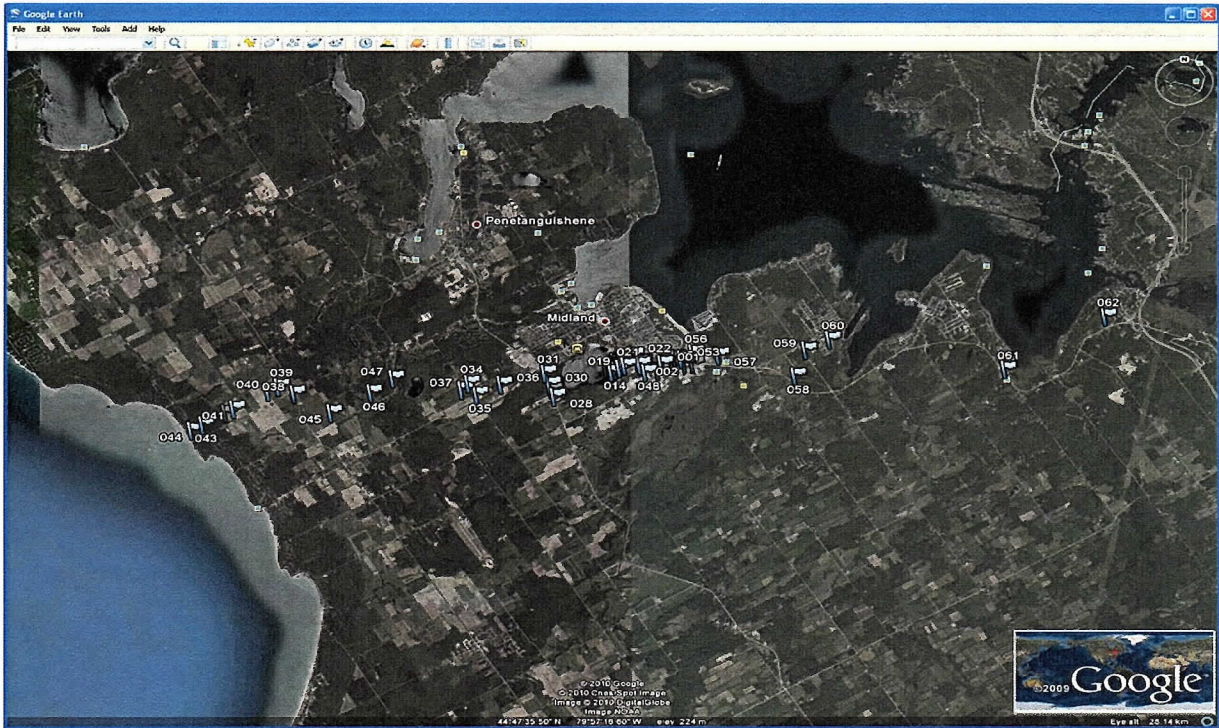


Figure 1: GoogleEarth map image of the Midland tornado track illustrating the 25.69km pathway starting at Rowtree Beach and terminating at the community of Waubaushene

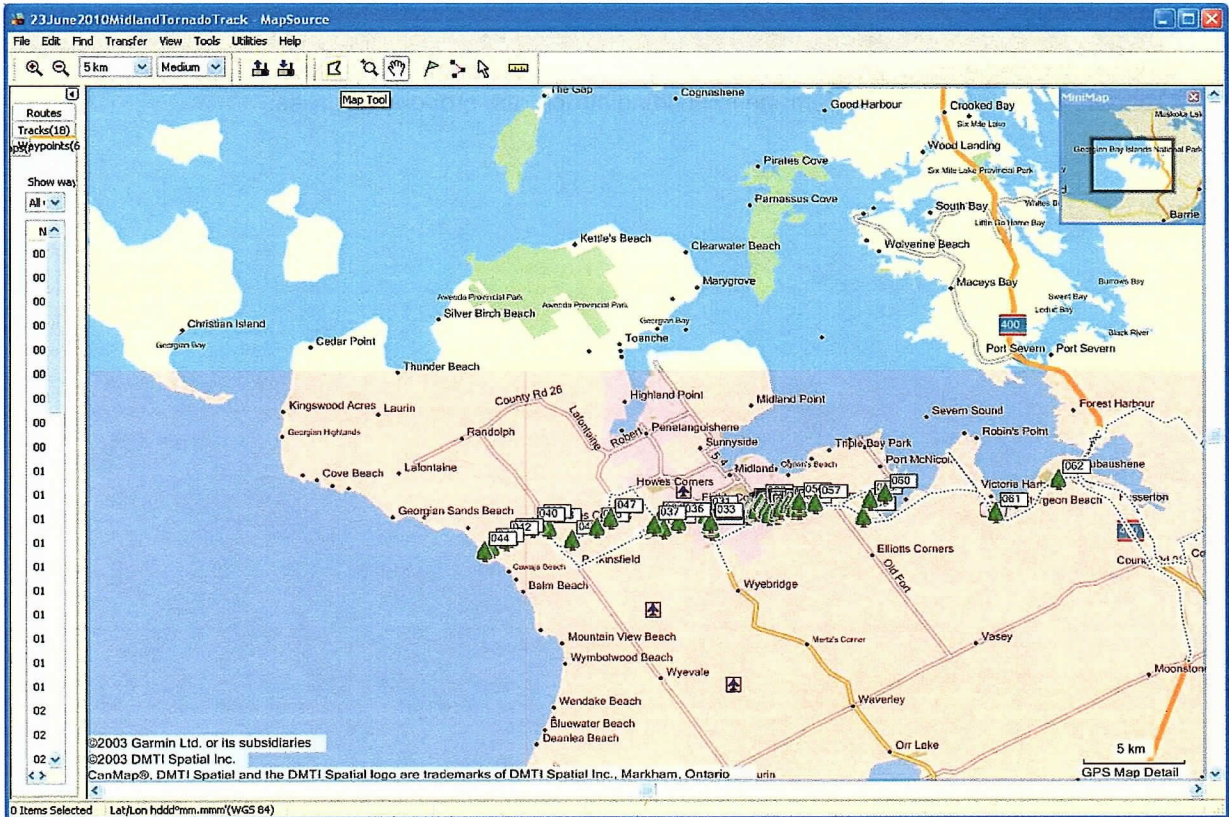


Figure 2: Mapsource image of the Midland tornado track illustrating the 25.69km pathway starting at Rowtree Beach and terminating at the community of Waubaushene



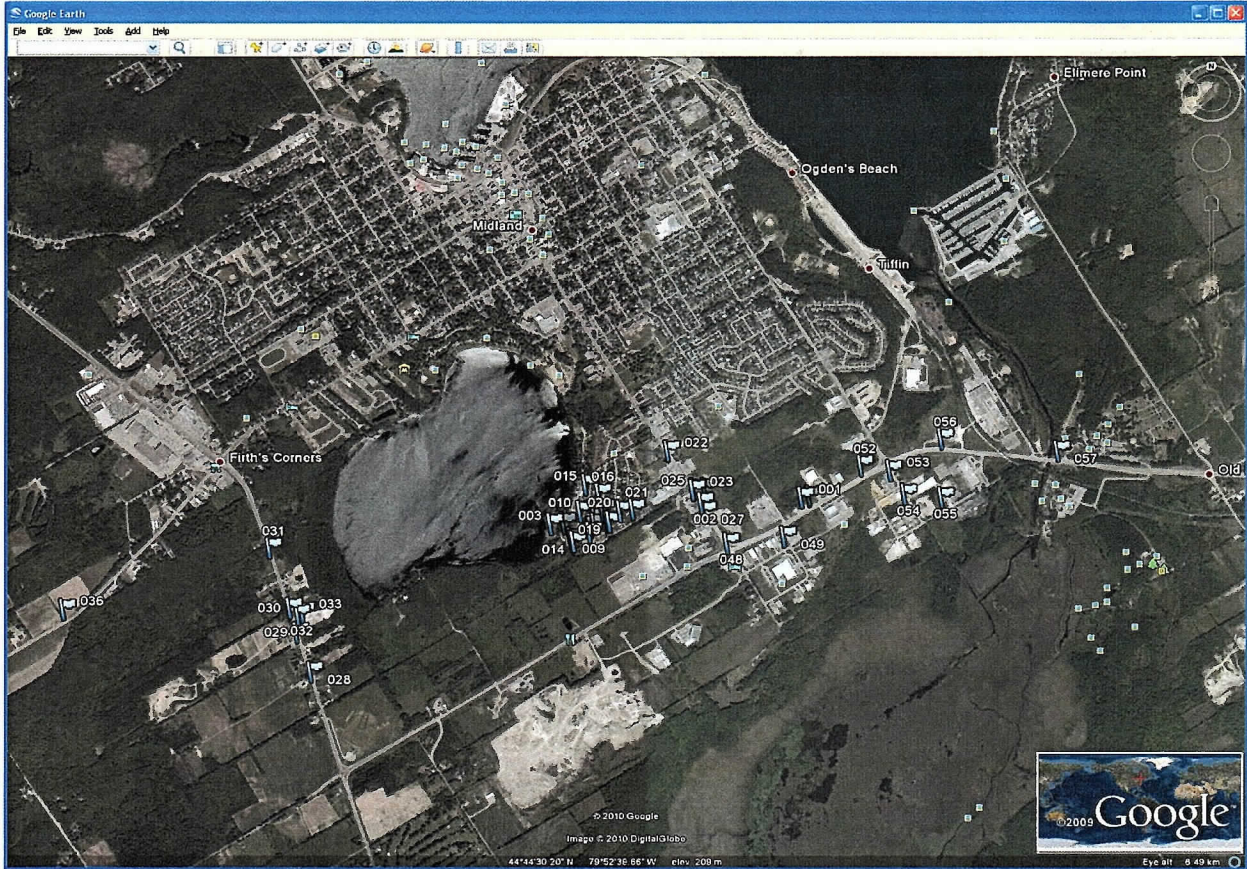


Figure 3: Google Earth image showing the affected areas of the tornado track. Each waypoint represents a site of severe damage to building structures, property, or trees.





Figure 4: Smith Trailer Park located in Midland. Picture looking eastward showing two full sized 35ft trailers rolled on their side and numerous surrounding trees sheared off at the top. There was no evidence of anchoring to the ground in most trailers within the park.





Figure 5: Smith Trailer Park located in Midland. Picture looking westward showing the scattered debris and destroyed trailers at the southwestern portion of the park where the mobile homes were situated. Attached to waypoint 18.





Figure 6: Smith Trailer Park located in Midland. Picture looking southwestward showing the location of a 40ft trailer that had been uplifted and displaced 28m to the north. Trailers that had been uplifted and thrown more than several tens of meters were





Figure 7: Smith Trailer Park located in Midland. Picture looking southwestward showing a permanent modulated home that had collapsed and interior items uplifted. Seven permanent modular homes were severely damaged. Attached to waypoint 19.





Figure 8: Smith Trailer Park located in Midland. Picture looking southward showing a 42ft trailer frame that had been uplifted and relocated to Erin Rd. where the permanent modular homes were located. The point of origin for this mobile home was measured to be a minimum of 100m from this location.





Figure 13: The site of origin for the modular home that was entirely uplifted and relocated on Vics Rd. Picture looking southwest showing the steel metal anchors and hooks that failed to secure the modular home to the ground. Attached to waypoint 19.





Figure 10: Sargeant Fuels industrial compound. Picture taken towards the northeast showing the removal of roof frame structure and metal plating.



Figure 11: Southern building of the Sargeant Fuel industrial compound found on Hwy 93. Picture looking northward showing the dislodged roof from the cinder block masonry walls. Notice that some of the cinder blocks maintained contact with the roof while





Figure 9: Baytech Plastics located on Hwy 12 east of Midland. Picture taken in a NW direction showing the outer cinder block wall that had sustained severe damage and partial collapse. The upper portions of the warehouse had evidence of siding removal



Figure 14: Image of the confirmed F2 tornado. Source: The Weather Network.



AWCN11 CWTO 251907

Weather summary for all of Southern Ontario and  
The national Capital region

Issued by Environment Canada Toronto at 2:59 PM EDT Friday  
25 June  
2010.

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==WEATHER EVENT DISCUSSION==

THE DAMAGE THAT OCCURRED IN A CAMPGROUND TO THE EAST OF AMHERSTBURG AROUND 10:50 PM ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 23 HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A MICROBURST WHICH IS A VERY LOCALIZED GUST OF DAMAGING WINDS. THE DAMAGE TO THE CAMPGROUND INCLUDED A CAMPER TRAILER FLIPPED OVER AND A LARGE TENT AND SMALL SHEDS BEING SEVERELY DAMAGED. THE DAMAGE OCCURRED IN A LOCALIZED AREA APPROXIMATELY 60 METRES WIDE BY 600 METRES LONG. BASED ON THE TYPE OF DAMAGE THAT OCCURRED THE WINDS WERE ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN 120 AND 140 KM/H WHICH IS THE LOWER END OF THE FUJITA ONE RANGE. THE FUJITA SCALE USES DAMAGE TO ESTIMATE THE STRENGTH OF WINDS IN TORNADOES AND SEVERE WIND GUSTS AND GOES FROM ZERO (WEAKEST) TO FIVE (STRONGEST).

ENVIRONMENT CANADA EARLIER CONFIRMED THAT A FUJITA SCALE 2 TORNADO (PEAK WINDS BETWEEN 180 AND 240 KM/H) OCCURRED IN THE MIDLAND AREA AROUND 6:30 PM WEDNESDAY EVENING. THE TORNADO BEGAN IN THE ROWNTREE BEACH AREA WEST OF MIDLAND AND ENDED JUST WEST OF WAUBAUSHENE FOR A TOTAL LENGTH OF APPROXIMATELY 25 KM. THE MAXIMUM WIDTH OF DAMAGE WAS AROUND 300 METRES. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE NOTED WITH THIS TORNADO WAS NUMEROUS MOBILE HOMES SEVERELY DAMAGED OR DESTROYED IN A TRAILER PARK AT THE SOUTH END OF THE TOWN OF MIDLAND. DAMAGE OUTSIDE OF THE MIDLAND AREA WAS INTERMITTENT.

A SECOND TORNADO SPAWNED FROM THE SAME THUNDERSTORM THAT MOVED OVER THE MIDLAND AREA OCCURRED AT APPROXIMATELY 7:00 PM. THIS TORNADO BEGAN AROUND THE MAPLE VALLEY AREA APPROXIMATELY 10 KM WEST OF WASHAGO AND ENDED JUST EAST OF WASHAGO. THIS TORNADO WAS RATED AS A FUJITA SCALE ONE TORNADO (PEAK WINDS BETWEEN 120 AND 170 KM/H). THE TOTAL LENGTH OF THE DAMAGE WAS APPROXIMATELY 12 KM BUT WAS INTERMITTENT IN NATURE. THE MAXIMUM WIDTH WAS APPROXIMATELY 60 METRES. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE FROM THIS TORNADO WAS TO FARM BUILDINGS (I.E. A BARN AND SILO) AND A GARAGE.

WITH THE CONFIRMATION OF TWO TORNADOES FROM WEDNESDAY EVENING, THE TOTAL COUNT OF TORNADOES FOR THIS YEAR SO FAR IN ONTARIO STANDS AT FOUR. ONTARIO NORMALLY GETS AROUND 11 TORNADOES EACH SEASON WITH THE SUMMER SEVERE WEATHER SEASON BEGINNING IN LATE APRIL AND ENDING IN EARLY OCTOBER.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SUMMARY CONTAINS THE OBSERVATIONS AT THE TIME OF BROADCAST AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFICIAL AND FINAL REPORT OF THE WEATHER EVENTS OR THE HIGH IMPACT EVENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE WEATHER EVENTS.

## **Severe Weather at Southern Ontario June 23, 2010**

An unusual severe summer storm at Midland, Ontario prompted several warnings to be issued for Barrie-Orillia-Midland, Peterborough-Kawartha Lakes, Belleville-Quinte-Northumberland, Stirling-Tweed-South Frontenac, Kingston Price Edward areas and later in the evening tornado watch for Windsor-Essex-Chatham-Kent and a tornado warning for Windsor-Leamington-Essex County.

Damage reports indicated large trees uprooted, about 40 mobile homes destroyed, business damaged, and 10 people injured in Midland, power lines down in Port McNichol and small shacks and signs down at nearby areas.

Radar shows that a cell with rotation developed over water. This cell tracked inland to affect the Midland about **6:15 to 6:20 PM**. There were no watches or warnings in effect for Midland area at the time. It is unusual that a tornado formed over water especially with water temperature in Georgian Bay at 15 degree C. Cloud tops were relative low compared to normal tornadic cloud. In addition, radar indicated there might have been a tornado in Orillia around 7:10 PM.

The science and technology is not mature enough to allow us to accurately detect and predict these types of small scale low topped supercell storms in absence of eye witness reports. According to recent scientific study, only a small percentage (10-15 percent) of rotating supercells actually produce a tornado on the ground.

**On Monday, June 21, at 4:30 PM**, the Convective Statement issued for southern Ontario indicated the threat for damaging winds Wednesday afternoon and evening over southern Ontario. This statement was updated Tuesday June 22 at 4:00 AM.

**On Tuesday, June 22, at 3:51 PM**, a Convective Weather Statement was issued indicating a moderate risk of severe thunderstorms for southern Ontario, including damaging winds and isolated tornadoes.

**On Wednesday, June 23, at 4:11 AM** a Convective Weather Statement was issued maintaining the threat of damaging winds and the risk for an isolated tornado.

**At 10:58 AM** a Special Weather Statement was issued for the region indicating the threat of heavy rainfall from thunderstorms expected to develop in the early evening.

**At 4:30 PM** (June 23), a Convective Weather Statement was issued indicating the threat of strong to severe thunderstorms during the evening.

**6:42 PM** Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued for Barrie - Orillia - Midland

**7:05 PM** Tornado Warning was issued for Barrie - Orillia - Midland

**7:15 PM** Tornado Warning was issued for Fenelon Falls - Balsam Lake Park - Northern Kawartha Lakes.

**8:02 PM** Tornado Warning was issued for Apsley - Woodview - Northern Peterborough County

**8:51 PM** Tornado Watch was issued for Windsor - Essex - Chatham-Kent

**9:32 PM** Severe Thunderstorm Watch issued for - Belleville - Quinte - Northumberland, Kingston - Prince Edward, Lindsay - Southern Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough City - Lakefield - Southern Peterborough County, Stirling - Tweed - South Frontenac.



**9:42 PM** Tornado Warning was issued for Lindsay – Southern Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough City - Lakefield – Southern Peterborough County.  
**10:08 PM** Tornado Warning ended for Apsley – Woodview – Northern Peterborough City  
**10:14 PM** Tornado Warning for Winsor – Leamington – Essex County  
**10:43 PM** Tornado Warning for Uxbridge – Beaverton – Northern Durham Region  
**11:06 PM** Tornado Warning ended for Uxbridge – Beaverton – Northern Durham Region  
**11:58 PM** Tornado Warning ended for Windsor – Leamington – Essex County  
**12:00 AM** Tornado Warning ended for Lindsay – Southern Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough City - Lakefield – Southern Peterborough County.  
**12:08 AM** Tornado Watch ended for Windsor – Essex – Chatham – Kent  
**12:15 AM** Severe Thunderstorm Watch ended for Cobourg – Colborne – Western Northumberland County, Lindsay – Southern Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough City – Lakefield – Southern Peterborough County  
**1:24 AM** Severe Thunderstorm Watch ended for Belleville – Quinte West – Eastern Northumberland County, Kingston – Prince Edward, Stirling – Tweed – South Frontenac

**Earlier this morning**, the Environment Canada storm survey team convened at Downsview and dispatched two damage survey teams. They will be joined by a wind-tunnel researcher (Dr. Greg Koff) from University of Western Ontario.

On the evening of June 23, 2010, one additional meteorologist was working because of the G8/G20 event, as a result, there were 4 meteorologists on shift plus a summer student working until mid-night. There was enough capacity to deal with the situation. When watches and warnings were issued, the policy to extend watches and warnings to a larger area was used and the system handled the volume.

Information provided by Mark Firmin, Alyssa Young, Sarah Wong and Glenn Robinson, OSPC Shift Supervisors

## Midland Damage Survey Field Notes

**Event Date:** Sunday June 23, 2010

**Field Survey Dates:** Thursday June 24, 2010

**Field Investigators:** Rebecca Wagner, Peter Staples, David Sills, Chantal McCartin, & Dan Clarke

**Location:** Midland, Ontario

**County:** Essex

**Event Description:** Confirmed F2 Tornado associated with an estimated 25km damage track which extends from the Nottawasage Bay coastline at Rowntree Beach to the approximate region of Sturgeon Bay just west of Hwy 12 and Hwy 400. A second tornado track believed to have originated from the same supercell was investigated by Rebecca Wagner, Peter Staples and Chantal McCartin which extended from Maple Valley to Washago.

### Notes

- Arrived Midland 11:27am
- Some damage to wal-mart garden centre off of Hwy 12 but no obvious damage to the actual buildings in the complex
- 781 King St. – mature tree fallen

### Important People and Interviewees

Rick Smith

Owner of Smith R.V. Park

Contact: 705-526-4339

UWO Team

Dave Henderson

Contact: 519-719-9033

Smith R.V. Park

- Picture of shingles taken in S direction
- Report of women taken to hospital with two broken legs
- Report of one woman thrown from the trailer during the incident and sustained a broken arm

## Pictures

- WP 18 taken at the intersection of Vicks and Erin's house is taken in east direction showing the modulated home rooted to the house
- 1. Sunco Gas Station with Tree Damage Looking North
- 2. Sunco Gas station looking North
- 3. Damage Regions Map
- 4. Damage Regions Map
- 5. Waypoint 3 looking NW
- 6. Waypoint 3 looking SW
- 7. Waypoint 3 possible tornado track direction SW with tree damage

## Waypoint Descriptions

1. Taylor Tire / Hercules Tire / Sunco Gas Station on Hwy 12
  - evidence of shearing off of trees
  - fallen tree north of building
2. Power line damage along King St.
3. NW site of damage along shoreline of Little Lake
  - tree fallen N direction beside WP
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> mature white cedar tree fallen in East direction
  - 1<sup>st</sup> picture taken in NW direction
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> picture taken in SW direction
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> picture indicating the tornado track direction SW based on extensive tree damage across Little Lake
4. Flipped over trailer in east direction
  - pic taken in East direction
  - no anchoring
5. Two trailers flipped over in opposite directions
  - pic taken in East direction
  - tree snapped off at base just N of Montana trailer
  - many pictures taken in E direction
  - tree snapped off at base pointing in N direction
  - Montana trailer pushed over
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> trailer with spray paint had to have rolled in E direction
  - Trees surrounding the area snapped off
6. Patio destroyed
  - large tree crushed in an E direction
7. Trailer pushed over towards east
  - debris scatter surrounding trailer
  - picture with camera man included facing east
8. Point of origin for thrown and destroyed trailer
  - trailer was relocated 18.8m northward
  - picture taken in N direction
  - pictures include dirt bikes that apparently were not uplifted

9. Southern extent of damage with several trees down in inconsistent directions
10. large maple tree fallen in N direction showing convergence
  - pic taken with Dave as reference
  - pic taken in N and W direction where entire trailer was lifted off location and left bare
  - pic take nincluding media coverage where trailers have all rolled and pushed into a S direction
11. Mature hickory uprooted and relocated unknown distances to the east
  - pic taken to north
12. South volleyball pole
  - panoram pictures taken
13. Northerly extent of damage in southern portion of park
14. Westerly extent of damage in southern portion of park
15. Trees blown down in NE direction
16. Trees blown down in scattered directions
17. Shingle damage and weak metal roof torn off
18. Intersection of Erin and Vicks
  - pic taken in N direction
19. 30 ft trailer thrown onto Erin's St. but must have originated to the east where trailers of that type are only found
20. Modeular home collapsed and contents of house thrown around
  - pic take nin E direction
  - pic taken with Dave in NE direction
  - pic of car taken in SW direction where piece of roofing thrown across street
21. Intersection of Berts and Erins
  - multiple trees down in scattered orientation
22. Large oak trees with major trunk damage
23. N/A
24. Intersection of Hwy 12 and King
  - represents the northern extent of damage in the area
25. Electrical Industrial Supplies
  - pictures taken in N direction
  - power pole taken out snapped to the north
26. NE corner of EIS where debris was thrown in NE direction another 50+m past power line just north of metal dome structure
  - trees east of building were twisted and snapped off
  - foundation of building uplifted and building will have to be fully collapsed
27. 53 ft truck flipped over in front of 'Barber & Haskill'
28. 10m tall tree blown over to NE
  - no damage to building however to its north
  - pic taken up a second tree (pine) that was uprooted and pointing in N direction
  - pic taken in W direction
29. Multiple mature trees pointing in a NE direction
30. Sargeant Fuels
  - damage to building roof
  - pic taken in E direction

- trees and power lines showing clear convergence pointing southward
- 31. Small tree pointing in S direction
  - marks northern extent of damage
- 32. 6933 County Rd. 93 Small truck's original location
  - E-350 super duty Ford Truck had been picked up and relocated to WP 333
- 33. Displaced location of damaged truck
  - picture of truck taken in east and north direction
  - several young poplar trees blown over towards the north
- 34. Large tree damage
  - northern extent again
  - power lines, branches and medium sized trees fallen observed
- 35. Blown over advertisement signs
- 36. Young trees blown over in a N direction
- 37. Large trees fallen as well as shingle damage
- 38. Damage and peeling off of roofing and siding of tin shed
- 39. Trampoline found in field minimum of 50m from any potential site of origin
- 40. Small tree damage
- 41. Mature tree uprooted
- 42. Large branches down
- 43. Small tree damage and power lines collapsed and replaced
- 44. Mature tree snapped off at base
- 45. Tree and branch damage
- 46. Large trunk break
- 47. Tree damage
- 48. Damage observed to metal trimming of commercial building
- 49. Metal trimming peeled off commercial building
- 50. 838 King St. Discount Car and Truck Rentals
  - shingles removed, ease troughs removed, and broken windows
  - Honda dealership to the south
- 51. Industrial roof damage and shingles removed
- 52. Mature pine trees blown to South
- 53. Full grown tree uprooted
- 54. Mature tree uprooted
- 55. tree damage blown over to south direction
  - tree fallen over on industrial building
  - transformer destroyed and power poles downed
- 56. Baytech Plastics
  - pic taken
  - outer brick wall severely damaged but building and roof structure did not fail
- 57. Large tree damage
- 58. Tree down
- 59. Insulation debris found on side of road and small trees uprooted
- 60. Tree Blown over
- 61. possible tree damage
- 62. large tree uprooted
- 63. several convergent trees close to bridgeway

## Interviews

Name: **Bernadine Mordeau**

Location: Maple Lane in Smith R.V. Park, Midland, Ontario

Contact: [maple.lanes@hotmail.com](mailto:maple.lanes@hotmail.com)

Description: Mrs. Mordeau and her husband were watching television in their modular home which is anchored to the ground quite securely when they heard the sound of crashing debris outside. They looked at the time on the television and it was approximately 6:40pm. By the time they got up and looked out the window they could see their lawn furniture being blown away from the premise. A small tree had also fallen on their house and resulted in several broken windows but the frame of the house stayed very much intact. Her neighbour Redge was an eye witness to the vortex that swept through their residence. She said that the event felt like it lasted for 2 minutes but could have been as long as 5 minutes.

Name: **Nadine Woods**

Location: Southern portion of Smith's RV Park near the intersection of Erin and Vicks, Midland, Ontario

Contact: [sweetlittleginger@hotmail.com](mailto:sweetlittleginger@hotmail.com)

Description: Nadine heard a tremendous noise and went to the window to witness a clearly defined vortex moving away from her towards the east. She was able to catch **video footage of the tornado** passing through on her **smart phone** and should be sending it to us via email by the end of the day.

Name: **Cory Neva**

Location: Intersection of King St. and Hwy 12, Midland, Ontario

Contact: [coryneva@rogers.com](mailto:coryneva@rogers.com)

Description: Cory was able to capture a **photograph of the vortex** as it passed by close to the intersection of King St. and Hwy 12

Environment  
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Event type	Tornado (vetted)
Event start date	2010-6-23 UTC (exact)
Event start time	22:05:00 UTC (estimate)
Event duration	00:01:00 (rough)
Entered by	rodgersd (2010-07-26 16:27:15)
Event version	latest
fcst region	BARRIE - ORILLIA - MIDLAND
meso region	MIDLAND - COLDWATER - ORR LAKE
Latitude/Longitude	44 ° 45' N 79 ° 53' W
Location	0 KM N of Midland
Hail	no
Hail size descriptor	N/A
Hail diameter	N/A
Hail depth	N/A
Wind	no
Gust speed	N/A
Wind direction	N/A
Wind intensity	N/A
Rain	no
Rain amount	N/A
Rain duration	N/A
Tornado	no
Tornado intensity	N/A
Lightning	no
Lightning Intensity	N/A
Mesocyclone	yes
Funnel Cloud	no
Waterspout	no
Narrative	Wall cloud with rotation spotted across intersection 93 and Balm Beach Rd (in Midland). Noted damage to shacks and signs.
Confidence	probable

Warning Criteria	not met
Source	Canwarn
MSC initiated report of event	N/A
Contact name	Joseph Shynn (3883)
Contact phone	(705) 322-18
Contact email	qp2trz@cupelocal2.com
Contact address	34 Amelia Street, Elmvale, On
Number of fatalities	N/A
Fatality comments	N/A
Number of injuries	N/A
Injury comments	N/A
Damage amount	N/A
Damage comments	N/A
Power outage	N/A

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Note: Event details are highlighted in orange.

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Event type	Tornado (vetted)
Event start date	2010-6-23 UTC (exact)
Event start time	22:15:00 UTC (exact)
Event duration	00:01:00 (close)
Entered by	rodgersd (2010-07-26 17:17:43)
Event version	latest
fcst region	BARRIE - ORILLIA - MIDLAND
meso region	MIDLAND - COLDWATER - ORR LAKE
Latitude/Longitude	44 ° 43' N 79 ° 57' W
Location	2 KM N of Perkinsfield
Hail	no
Hail size descriptor	N/A
Hail diameter	N/A
Hail depth	N/A
Wind	yes
Gust speed	N/A
Wind direction	N/A
Wind intensity	N/A
Rain	yes
Rain amount	N/A
Rain duration	N/A
Tornado	yes
Tornado intensity	F2 (measured)
Lightning	no
Lightning Intensity	N/A
Mesocyclone	no
Funnel Cloud	no
Waterspout	no

Narrative	The Balm Beachway Golf Club closed at 6pm and by 6:25pm local time there was widespread damage throughout the golf course and surrounding property. Approximately 200+ trees had been damaged by snapping off at base or being uprooted. There was also torrential rain that caused flooding in an isolated area on HWy 93. No damage to building structures. Expected width of track was 550m and all the damage was found north of concession rd. 11 but south of concession rd. 12. No eye witnesses of anyone at the Golf Club because it closes at 6pm.
Confidence	probable
Warning Criteria	met or exceeded
Source	Public
MSC initiated report of event	N/A
Contact name	Don Wylie
Contact phone	7055263945
Contact email	N/A
Contact address	250 Concession 11 East
Number of fatalities	N/A
Fatality comments	N/A
Number of injuries	N/A
Injury comments	N/A
Damage amount	N/A
Damage comments	Estimated over 200 trees damaged or uprooted.
Power outage	N/A

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Event type	Tornado (vetted)
Event start date	2010-6-23 UTC (exact)
Event start time	22:30:00 UTC (exact)
Event duration	00:01:00 (rough)
Entered by	rodgersd (2010-07-28 17:27:56)
Event version	latest
fcst region	BARRIE - ORILLIA - MIDLAND
meso region	MIDLAND - COLDWATER - ORR LAKE
Latitude/Longitude	44 ° 45' N 79 ° 53' W
Location	0 KM N of Midland
Hail	no
Hail size descriptor	N/A
Hail diameter	N/A
Hail depth	N/A
Wind	no
Gust speed	N/A
Wind direction	N/A
Wind intensity	N/A
Rain	no
Rain amount	N/A
Rain duration	N/A
Tornado	yes
Tornado intensity	F2 (measured)
Lightning	no
Lightning Intensity	N/A
Mesocyclone	no
Funnel Cloud	no
Waterspout	no
Narrative	Tornado passed in Midland. Knocked down buildings and trees along Hwy 12 (near Bay Tech). Damage on the back streets of Albert (South of Highway 12). Update by Dave: I contacted Dave Ritchie and he confirmed that the timing should be 2230z.



	He is located in Vasey which is 8 km SE of Midland. There was no damage in Vasey...it was in Midland.
Confidence	confirmed
Warning Criteria	met or exceeded
Source	Canwarn
MSC initiated report of event	N/A
Contact name	Dave Ritchie (1315)
Contact phone	705-534-4017
Contact email	N/A
Contact address	1201 Rumney Road, Midland, On
Number of fatalities	N/A
Fatality comments	N/A
Number of injuries	N/A
Injury comments	N/A
Damage amount	N/A
Damage comments	N/A
Power outage	yes

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Canada[\[Français\]](#) [\[Back\]](#)**View Event****Back To Search Results**

Event type	Tornado (vetted)
Event start date	2010-6-23 UTC (exact)
Event start time	22:35:00 UTC (estimate)
Event duration	00:01:00 (exact)
Entered by	rodgersd (2010-07-26 17:13:09)
Event version	latest
fcst region	BARRIE - ORILLIA - MIDLAND
meso region	MIDLAND - COLDWATER - ORR LAKE
Latitude/Longitude	44 ° 44' N 79 ° 46' W
Location	0 KM N of Victoria Harbour
Hail	no
Hail size descriptor	N/A
Hail diameter	N/A
Hail depth	N/A
Wind	yes
Gust speed	N/A
Wind direction	W (measured)
Wind intensity	N/A
Rain	no
Rain amount	N/A
Rain duration	N/A
Tornado	yes
Tornado intensity	NA (measured)
Lightning	no
Lightning Intensity	N/A
Mesocyclone	no
Funnel Cloud	no
Waterspout	no
Narrative	A line of damage to young trees on the property of 2499 Reeves Rd. was the outcome of the thunderstorms that swept through the area. There is also damage to neighboring properties but no structural damage to the residence. Update by Dave:

	Radar suggests the storm went through the area closer to 6:35 pm.
Confidence	probable
Warning Criteria	met or exceeded
Source	Public
MSC initiated report of event	N/A
Contact name	Terry
Contact phone	7055293868
Contact email	N/A
Contact address	2499 Reeves Rd. in Victoria Harbour
Number of fatalities	N/A
Fatality comments	N/A
Number of injuries	N/A
Injury comments	N/A
Damage amount	N/A
Damage comments	N/A
Power outage	N/A

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Event type	Tornado (vetted)
Event start date	2010-6-23 UTC (exact)
Event start time	22:35:00 UTC (exact)
Event duration	00:01:00 (rough)
Entered by	rodgersd (2010-07-28 17:27:04)
Event version	latest
fcst region	BARRIE - ORILLIA - MIDLAND
meso region	MIDLAND - COLDWATER - ORR LAKE
Latitude/Longitude	44 ° 45' N 79 ° 49' W
Location	5 KM E of Midland
Hail	no
Hail size descriptor	N/A
Hail diameter	N/A
Hail depth	N/A
Wind	no
Gust speed	N/A
Wind direction	N/A
Wind intensity	N/A
Rain	no
Rain amount	N/A
Rain duration	N/A
Tornado	yes
Tornado intensity	F2 (estimated)
Lightning	no
Lightning Intensity	N/A
Mesocyclone	no
Funnel Cloud	no
Waterspout	no
Narrative	Possible tornado. Large trees uprooted and debris is all over the place in Midland. In Port McNicoll powerlines down.
Confidence	confirmed

Warning Criteria	met or exceeded
Source	Canwarn
MSC initiated report of event	N/A
Contact name	Ward Kennedy
Contact phone	416-726-6301
Contact email	N/A
Contact address	N/A
Number of fatalities	N/A
Fatality comments	N/A
Number of injuries	N/A
Injury comments	N/A
Damage amount	N/A
Damage comments	N/A
Power outage	N/A

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# Environment Canada confirms tornado

Posted By RAYMOND BOWE

Posted 1 day ago

Environment Canada confirmed an F2 tornado touched down in Midland Wednesday evening, but damage in the Washago area appears to have been caused by a second, less violent twister.

An F2-class tornado means peak wind speeds reached between 180 and 240 kilometres per hour. The Midland tornado was 200 metres across, although that could change once investigators determine its full path.

Damage around Washago and Severn Bridge, north of Orillia, may also have been caused by a second tornado, Geoff Coulson, warning preparedness meteorologist with Environment Canada, said Thursday afternoon.

"There's still discussion about whether it's coming in as F0 or F1," he said, adding a final determination hasn't been made on whether it was a second tornado.

The Fujita scale rating is based on the worst damage found.

More details about the Washago tornado could be determined Thursday evening.

A Girl Guide camp in the Amherstburg area, south of Windsor, was also damaged by heavy winds Wednesday around 10:30 p.m.

"This one also appears to be F0 damage, the lowest on the damage rating scale," Coulson said, adding an Environment Canada official was en route to the area Thursday afternoon to complete a more thorough assessment.

"We may have in fact had three separate tornadoes ... generated from the same parent thunderstorm," Coulson said. "But it looks like there may be enough of a gap between where the damage east of Midland ended and the damage west of Washago began to term it two separate storms."

Environment Canada sent two damage survey teams to the Georgian Bay area Thursday morning, but the Midland tornado's duration, length and width haven't been defined.

Initial damage was identified near Conc. 12 in Tiny Township, north of Perkinsfield.

Advertisement

"That could very well have been the beginning," Coulson said.

The tornado hit at Midland at 6:20 p.m., Wednesday, knocking out power to about 8,500 homes, while also damaging dozens of mobile homes near downtown Midland. No critical injuries were reported.

A state of emergency has been declared in Midland, a town of about 16,300 people and located about 30 minutes north of Barrie.

Environment Canada's on-site investigation includes assessing the damage, while also getting eyewitness accounts about what was seen in the sky.

"If the damage tends to be long and narrow, it's usually related to a tornado, which makes sense with this violently rotating whirl that would bring things in towards it," Coulson said.

"If the damage is more broad and fan-shaped, we may be dealing with a downburst event or a powerful gust of wind," Coulson said, adding a combination of the two is common as a storm system shifts through different phases.

Environment Canada says the Midland tornado was the third of the season in Ontario, a province which normally gets 11 twisters in a season running from late April to early October.

Investigators fan out from where the most significant damage has occurred, Coulson said. In this case, the bull's eye was Smith's Camp in Midland.

"They'll be moving out both to the west and to the east to try and pick up more damage tracks to get a better sense of the width and length," Coulson said.

The two teams will then compare notes.

The storm moved from west to east, and likely started over Georgian Bay before picking up steam as it made landfall.

"I think it was a combination," Coulson said. "There was something getting together over the bay, but it really seemed to intensify as it (came on land)."

Damage in the Washago area was "impressive," Coulson said, but not on the scale witnessed in Midland.

"Some of the objects that were moved in the Washago area included a corrugated culvert," he said, adding heavy material stacked up on one property was also tossed around. "We'll have to wait for (the team's) final designation on what the wind estimates would be to move material of that weight."

Information is also being collected in the Sparrow Lake area near Severn Bridge and Maple Valley, located north of Orillia in Severn Township.

Northern Simcoe County is not necessarily a strange area for severe weather.

"With these types of storms, if the event is strong enough or supported well enough by a disturbance in the atmosphere, these things can happen pretty much anywhere," Coulson said. "Our area of most activity tends to be the Windsor-to-Barrie corridor."

Eight people, including four children, were killed in Barrie on May 31, 1985, after a tornado tore through the city's south end. More than 150 people were injured.

Over the last several years, Coulson said there have also been tornadoes reported up into the Parry Sound and Gravenhurst areas.

## Midland storm confirmed as F2 tornado

680News staff Jun 24, 2010 19:49:21 PM

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TORONTO - Environment Canada has confirmed that the tornado which wreaked havoc in Midland Wednesday evening was an F2.

The F2 class of tornadoes packs winds between 180 and 240 kilometres an hour.

The *Barrie Examiner* reported the Midland tornado measured 200 metres across.

It is believed a second, less powerful twister blew through the Washago area, just north of Orillia, leaving damage as it passed through the region. However, Environment Canada said that tornado was likely an F0 or F1.

The agency continues to look into a possible twister touchdown in the Amherstburg area, after people reported downed trees and damage to a wheat field.

Meanwhile, following a visit to storm-ravaged Midland, Ontario community safety minister Rick Bartolucci said the province is assessing the need for emergency relief funds. Nearly 50 families have been left homeless.

## Midland storm was an F2 tornado, experts confirm

By: CTV.ca News Staff

Date: Thursday Jun. 24, 2010 3:41 PM PT

The tornado that whipped through Ontario cottage country Wednesday was an F2 storm that saw high winds reach between 180 kilometres and 240 kilometres an hour.

Environment Canada confirmed the strength of the tornado late Thursday.

The severe storm resulted in downed power lines, strewn rooftops and toppled trees throughout the Midland, Ont. region.

Weather experts also say they are investigating a possible second tornado in the Washago area, located north of Orillia.

That storm was significantly weaker. Winds likely peaked between 120 kilometres and 170 kilometres an hour, rendering it an F1 tornado.

Officials say they are uncertain whether the two towns were hit by the same tornado.

"We are leaning towards separate because we can't find damage in between those areas," said meteorologist Geoff Coulson.

Property destruction was also reported in southwestern Ontario, in a camp ground east of Amherstburg, in Essex county at about 10:30 p.m. Judging from the damage, winds in that area likely reached 110 kilometres an hour.

Midland, located on the southeast edge of Georgian Bay, was hit by a severe storm shortly after 6 p.m. Wednesday evening.

Although it was part of a severe weather system that put much of the province under a rare "red alert", local residents say it came "out of the blue."

A trailer park in the town appears to have borne the brunt of the storm's damage.

Midland Mayor Jim Dower said damage to the approximately 360 mobile home units is extensive.

"It looks like about 60 have been totally destroyed and another 60 per cent badly damaged," Dower told Canada AM Thursday morning.

Residents described the twister as "something out of a movie."

"The trailer started flipping, tossing and turning, and all I saw was my legs going over my head. It was very, very scary," one resident told CTV Toronto.

"The clouds just started funneling down all around us . . . and started picking up all the water. I've never seen water come out of the sky like that before," another said.

In the aftermath of the storm, Dower declared a state of emergency for his town of approximately 16,300 residents. While search teams are still scouring the wreckage of the trailer park, hunting for any victims of the storm, the mayor remains optimistic everyone is accounted for.

"We just want to be absolutely sure," Downer said.

Emergency Management Ontario had issued a red alert Wednesday evening for a large swath of central Ontario. From Penetanguishene to the north, Barrie to the south, Collingwood to the west, and Orillia to the east, residents were asked to seek shelter from the potentially severe weather.

Environment Canada also had issued a tornado warning for Barrie, Orillia and the Penetanguishene area, a warning that extended northwards to the Peterborough and Kawartha Lakes area later in the evening. All tornado warnings in Ontario were dropped overnight.

The threat of severe weather continued Thursday, however, as Emergency Management Ontario issued another "Red Alert" for the areas of Port Carlin, Port Severn, Rosseau and Killbear Park. Citing the threat of severe thunderstorms, residents in those areas were warned to seek shelter until the alerts were rescinded shortly before 10 a.m.

The storm struck just hours after the area was shaken by a magnitude 5.0 earthquake centred in rural Quebec.

*Prepared with files from CTV's John Vennavally-Rao and The Canadian Press*

## **PHOTOS**

Midland\_storm\_was\_an\_F2\_tornado1: People look at a damaged building after a severe storm in Midland, Ontario, Wednesday June 23, 2010. (Benjamin Ricetto / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

Midland\_storm\_was\_an\_F2\_tornado2: Al MacDonald, left, and Lloyd Scott look through the remains of Mr. Scott's trailer home at Smiths' trailer park and camp in the town of Midland, Ontario, Thursday, June 24, 2010. (Graham Hughes / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

Midland\_storm\_was\_an\_F2\_tornado3: A man survey's the damage done to a building in the town of Midland, Ontario, Thursday, June 24, 2010, following a tornado which left a number of injuries and damage to property and businesses in its wake. (Graham Hughes / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

Midland\_storm\_was\_an\_F2\_tornado4: Ontario hydro maintenance crews are shown in the town of Midland, Ontario, Thursday, June 24, 2010, following a tornado which left a number of injuries and damage to property and businesses in its wake. (Graham Hughes / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

Midland\_storm\_was\_an\_F2\_tornado5: Workers clear away debris from the roof of a building in the town of Midland, Ont., Thursday, June 24, 2010, following a tornado which left a number of injuries and damage to property and businesses in its wake. (Graham Hughes / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

Midland\_storm\_was\_an\_F2\_tornado6: A man surveys the damage to a business following a severe storm in the town of Midland, Ont., Wednesday, June 23, 2010. (Graham Hughes / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

Midland\_storm\_was\_an\_F2\_tornado7: A car sits in front of a damaged building after a severe storm in Midland, Ontario, Wednesday, June 23, 2010. (Benjamin Ricetto / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

Midland\_storm\_was\_an\_F2\_tornado8: A suspected tornado is seen near Lake St. John, north of Orilla, Ont. on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, in this image submitted to 'A' News by Robyn Andrews.

Midland\_storm\_was\_an\_F2\_tornado9: Damage to a house can be seen in Midland, Ont. after a suspected tornado tore through the area, Wednesday, June 23, 2010.

Midland\_storm\_was\_an\_F2\_tornado10: A man takes a look at the remains of destroyed trailer homes at Smiths' trailer park and camp in the town of Midland, Ontario, Thursday, June 24, 2010. (Graham Hughes / THE CANADIAN PRESS)



# Midland tornado damage could reach \$15M

**Environment Canada confirms destruction wrought by a twister**

Read more: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2010/06/24/midland-ontario-tornado.html#ixzz0ryaN7MOs>

Damage from a tornado that ripped through Midland, Ont., could be as high as \$15 million, according to insurance experts.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada has set up a counter at the Red Cross shelter in Midland for people who need advice about damage and insurance.

Residents have been sifting through the rubble after a tornado tore through the area Wednesday evening, damaging homes and devastating a local trailer park.

## ***YOUR REPORT***

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The twister knocked down power lines and tore through the 323-unit Smith's Camp trailer park, inflicting widespread damage but only minor injuries. About 50 residences were ruined, displacing 50 families.

High winds knocked down trees, ripped the roof off a Honda dealership and damaged several local stores, including the local Water Depot, one resident said. About 100 structures were damaged.

Local officials said 20 people were taken to hospital with injuries, none of them critical. A provincial disaster assessment team is on scene and there were no reports of deaths.

Midland Mayor Jim Downer declared a state of emergency and said a "small army" of residents has been working to assist the people left homeless by the storm.



*A tornado that ripped through Smith's Camp trailer park in Midland, Ont., on Wednesday severely damaged 50 homes. (Ioanna Roumeliotis/CBC)*

"What I witnessed this morning and last night ... is total devastation in Smith's mobile home park," Downer told CBC News Thursday.

"We have three or four industries that are severely hit. We have power out for about 9,000 people. It's quite devastating."

Emergency crews blocked off several roads as teams worked to remove debris, while more than 30 crews were at work repairing downed lines and restoring power.

Ontario Community Safety Minister Rick Bartolucci was scheduled to tour the community Thursday, and Downer said assistance was pouring into Midland from surrounding areas.

"I have terrific support from all of my neighbouring municipalities, support beyond belief," the mayor said.

Environment Canada confirmed Thursday that a tornado hit the central Ontario community Wednesday evening, citing eyewitness accounts and photos of the damage.

The exact timing and intensity of the tornado are not yet known. A team is being sent to assess the damage, and a final report will be issued at a later date, Environment Canada said in a statement.

### **Trailer park devastated**

Ian Ferguson has a trailer at Smith's trailer park, which was hit hard by the storm.

"The trailer I live in is right in the centre of where everything got smashed up," he said.

Ferguson hid in the bathroom as the roaring wind ripped through the trailer park and campground. When the wind subsided, he looked out toward his neighbour's trailer. He said he opened the door and saw nothing but sticks and the sky.



*People walk past destroyed trailer homes in the Smith's Trailer Park in Midland, Ont., on Wednesday. (Carlo Allegri/Reuters)*

"Where there was a room, there was nothing but rubble," he said. Several trailers had been hurled into the air, landing upside down, or on top of vehicles.

He said one neighbour had a broken leg and another woman was inside a trailer that had tipped in the storm.

"She was walking around, she had a cut on her face, so I got her to come over and sit down," he said.

Downer said Thursday that at least 70 mobile homes in the campground had been damaged beyond repair.

Across town, Tracy Stephenson arrived home from work after the storm hit to find trees blocking her laneway.

"When I got down there, there was trees down on several of the houses on my street and power lines down," she said. "Luckily in our area, no one was hurt."

Downer said the community actually practised for just such a scenario, holding monthly emergency management meetings and an annual exercise simulating a disaster.

"It's paid off, believe me," the mayor said. "We were prepared for this . . . There is always glitches, but it certainly has helped us in our endeavours here today."

Midland is about 80 kilometres southwest of Huntsville, Ont., where the leaders of the G8 nations are meeting Friday and Saturday, before the G20 meeting in Toronto.

*With files from CBC's Dave Seglins and The Canadian Press*

Read more: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2010/06/24/midland-ontario-tornado.html#ixzz0ryaVrCdr>



# Pair of Ont. tornadoes cause millions in damages

By Philip Ling, Canwest News Service June 24, 2010 [Comments \(13\)](#)

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**Some trees were uprooted after a tornado hit Midland, Ontario.**

**Photograph by: Paul Welch, For the National Post**

At least 50 homes have been destroyed after a tornado ripped through the central Ontario community of Midland Wednesday night, with insurance experts estimating damage to be as high as \$15 million.

Environment Canada confirmed Thursday an F2 tornado touched down in Midland creating wind speeds of between 180 and 240 kilometres an hour.

The twister knocked down power lines and tore through the 323-unit Smith's Camp trailer park. At least 50 residences are now uninhabitable.

About a dozen people were injured, with most of the injuries reported at the trailer park. But residents said the huge funnel cloud, as large as 80 metres wide, also snapped a transformer and tore the roof off a factory.

"All of a sudden, the whole (trailer) was shaking but it only lasted about 30 seconds. It stopped raining and it was over other than the devastation around us," one resident said.

Another shocked homeowner described the scene around her: "Trees are uprooted, roofs off trailers, trailers completely gone, other trailers on top of trailers."

Ontario Community Safety Minister Rick Bartolucci toured Midland Thursday. Bartolucci has offered the assistance of the provincial government to the town of 16,000.

Midland Mayor James Downer, meanwhile, said the town would "do everything we can to get this rectified and get them back up into a normal situation."

The Insurance Bureau of Canada has dispatched a team to the community to help residents with their insurance concerns. The Red Cross and the Salvation Army have also provided assistance.

Greg Bishop, director of community services with the County of Simcoe, said 27 people registered at an evacuation centre set up at the local recreation centre, seven of whom required emergency accommodations Wednesday night. Only three people were expected to require accommodation assistance Thursday.

Environment Canada meteorologist Geoff Coulson said two tornadoes hit the Simcoe County area Wednesday.

The F2 tornado formed at 6:30 p.m. local time Wednesday, leaving a 25 kilometre trail of damage from the shores of Georgian Bay, in an area known as Rowntree Beach, to the west of Waubaushene.

A second tornado spawned from the same system at about 7 p.m. in the small community of Maple Valley, about 10 kilometres west of Washago. The most significant damage from that funnel cloud — described as an F1 tornado with peak winds at 120 to 170 kilometres an hour — was damage to farm buildings and a garage.

Four tornadoes have struck Ontario so far this tornado season, which runs from April until October, said Coulson, who added that Ontario is on track to experience the 11 or so twisters it normally gets.

He said, however, that Wednesday's F2 tornado was already the second Ontario has experienced this month. The province normally receives one the entire season. An F2 storm hit Leamington on June 6.

"The season did get off to a slow start," Coulson said, noting there was no tornado in April or May. "But now Mother Nature seems to be playing a bit of a catch up with respect to the activity and we've had four this month."

Wednesday's severe storm left about 8,400 customers without power and 110 Hydro One crews were in Midland trying to restore it, said spokeswoman Alexandra Stadnyk.

Such an extensive outage requires the work of both ground and helicopter crews, she said.

About 50 homes were still without power in Midland as of Thursday evening.

Meanwhile, a separate "damaging wind event," possibly a tornado, occurred in a campground to the east of Amherstburg, about 30 kilometres south of Windsor, in southwestern Ontario.

The damage to the campsite — from peak winds of 120 to 140 kilometres an hour — included a camper trailer flipped over and a large tent and small sheds being severely damaged.

An investigation will continue Friday to determine if the event was caused by a tornado or a burst of damaging winds.

*With files from Allison Cross*















## Tornado leaves Midland with massive cleanup

Gail Swainson Urban Affairs Reporter

MIDLAND-To the drone of generators and buzzing chainsaws, the people of Smith's Camp started the cleanup yesterday, grateful that no one died in the ferocious tornado that roared through this town during Wednesday's dinner hour, crushing 70 trailers and injuring 15 people.

"Thank God this didn't happen on the weekend," said Kim Raynard of Bracebridge, who bought her 40-foot Golden Falcon trailer just three weeks ago. The trailer, which was insured, was tossed dozens of metres from its foundation and lay in a heap on its side, twisted beyond recognition.

"We would have been here with our granddaughter Hope and the place would have been filled with kids," Raynard added.

"It's a miracle no one was killed."

Tearful Midland resident Shelley Pilon hugged Raynard as she sat where her trailer had been parked, and told her how sorry she was.

"I really appreciate that," Raynard said. "Most people are just walking by and staring."

Environment Canada has confirmed the town of about 16,000 on the shores of Georgian Bay, was clobbered by an F2 tornado that cut a wide swath, carrying winds of between 180 to 240 km/hr.

The day after the twister roared through, hundreds of stunned residents, trailer owners and curious townsfolk wandered through the park, which sits beside Little Lake right off King St. in Midland.

It was a scene of utter and complete devastation, more like a war zone than small-town Ontario.

Huge trailers had been picked up by the twister and tossed dozens of metres away, laying in tangled heaps of metal and wire.

Crying owners sorted through their soggy possessions, bits of their lives—children's toys, family pictures, lawn chairs, fridges, running shoes, clothing—scattered everywhere.

A garden gnome lay face down in the mud and pile after pile of twisted metal, shards of glass, wood and plastic and severed wires and insulation lay scattered everywhere. Dozens of giant trees were ripped from the ground or splintered by the wind's fury. In some places the debris was piled metres high.

Some 15 people were injured as the tornado roared through the town, eight of them seriously. One man, who escaped with just cuts and bruises, clawed his way out of a sporting goods store whose roof had collapsed on him.

About 70 trailers were destroyed at Smith's Camp and another 50 rendered inhabitable. Luckily, most of them were vacation homes lying empty, awaiting the weekend exodus, although seven permanent modular homes at the camp were also damaged. More than 8,000 Midland residents remain without power as of Thursday evening.

The tornado also badly damaged or destroyed some 100 local businesses and large factories on King St. on the town's north-east side, including Midland Honda, where a dozen cars were flung around. The huge Baytech Plastics factory, its entire front sheared off by the tornado, stood draped in giant blue tarps to keep out the rain.

Midland Mayor Jim Downer says there are "easily" 1,000 locals who have been put out of work by the destructive twister.

An exhausted Downer, who didn't get any sleep Wednesday, night, said he will ensure the town recovers fully. Downer has declared the town a disaster area.

"I see desperation here, I see people with very little hope right now," Downer said as toured Smith's Camp with Rick Bartolucci, Ontario's minister of community safety and correctional services. "But something good always comes out of something bad, and I know that will happen here."

Bartolucci and Downer are no strangers to the kind of destruction a tornado can bring: they were both in Sudbury when the tornado of 1970 touched down there, killing six and injuring 200.

Back at Smith's, Terry Randell of Caledon got a call from a friend about 7 p.m. Wednesday, telling him a tornado had touched down.

"I turned on CP-24 and the first thing I saw was my trailer, just wrecked," Randell said as he surveyed the damage to his 39-foot Fleetwood, which lay smashed on its side, metres from where it had been sitting. "My wife can't stop crying."

Randell said he has been coming to the park for a decade, but is not sure what he will do now. "I have no idea," he added. "I have to get over this shock."

For 40 years, North York's Merv Hann has spent every summer weekend and all of his vacation time at his Smith's Camp trailer. His two sons, now grown, learned to swim on Little Lake and Hann has a lifetime of fond memories.

A grim-faced Hann pointed to his bedroom in his Falcon trailer, which lay crushed under a massive downed tree.

"We were supposed to come up last night, but we didn't make it," Hann said. His crushed trailer sat with its innards exposed, a plush duck—his grandchildren's toy—perched on the tilted sofa. "This is just devastating."

Bartolucci said the province has sent in emergency teams and disaster assessment teams to evaluate the damage.



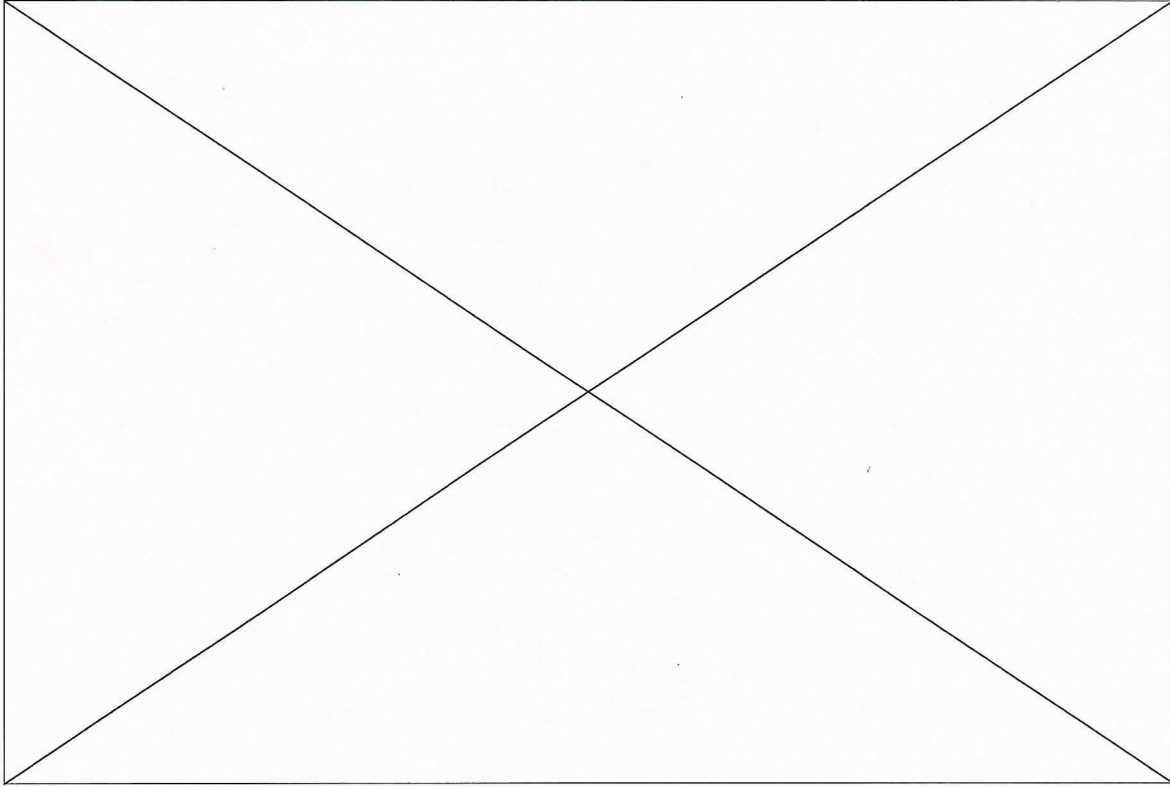
"We will use that information to make a determination regarding compensation," Bartolucci said in an interview. "We have a responsibility here."

Mike Foster and Kathy Haverlock of Toronto, who spent weekends at their 28 foot Mallard trailer at Smith's every summer for six years, picked through their soaked possessions looking for something to save and struggling to make sense of the mess.

"It's just like hell here," a shaken Foster said. "I've never seen anything like it."

## Your Report: Tornado in Midland, Ont.

- *June 24, 2010 11:45 AM* | [Comments3Recommend9](#)
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People in Midland, Ont., are sifting through the rubble after a tornado tore through the area Wednesday evening, damaging homes and devastating a local trailer park.

The video at the top submitted CBC community member BoNJean, a resident near Midland, shows a twister ripping through the area. The storm knocked down power lines and tore through Smith's Camp trailer park, inflicting widespread damage but only minor injuries.

[Read more.](#)

High winds knocked down trees, ripped the roof off a Honda dealership and damaged several local stores, including the local water depot, one resident said.

[Watch video of the spout over Midland, Ont.](#)

Another local resident wrote in to CBC News to say it's not the first time the area has experienced such severe weather. "I was sailing in Georgian Bay in late '70s [or] early

80's when a line squall came from the Bruce peninsula with 100-mph winds. It knocked down my boat, went across through Midland killing two sailors and causing damage," says Al Shingler.

We also received photos of the destruction caused by the tornado.

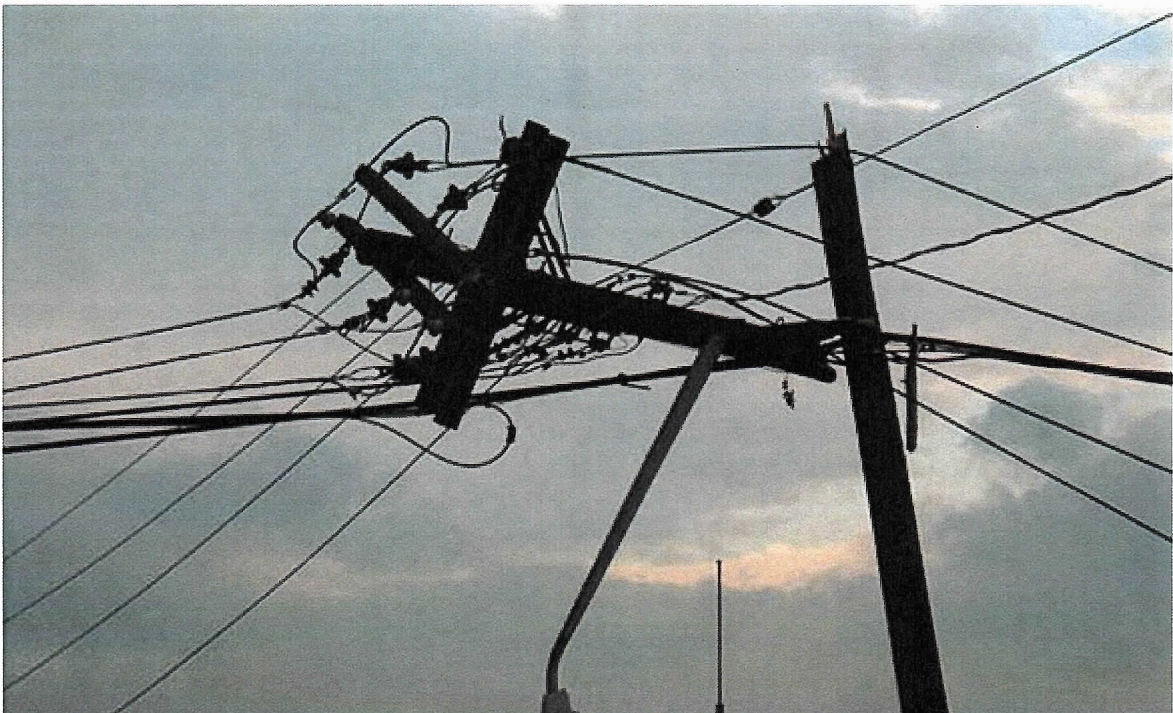


A fallen pole damages two cars in the Midland Honda dealership. Submitted by Anthony Moyston.





Police lines surround a damaged building in Midland. Submitted by thefoxman.



Damaged power lines. Submitted by scorpiochick.





Fallen trees. Submitted by thefoxman.

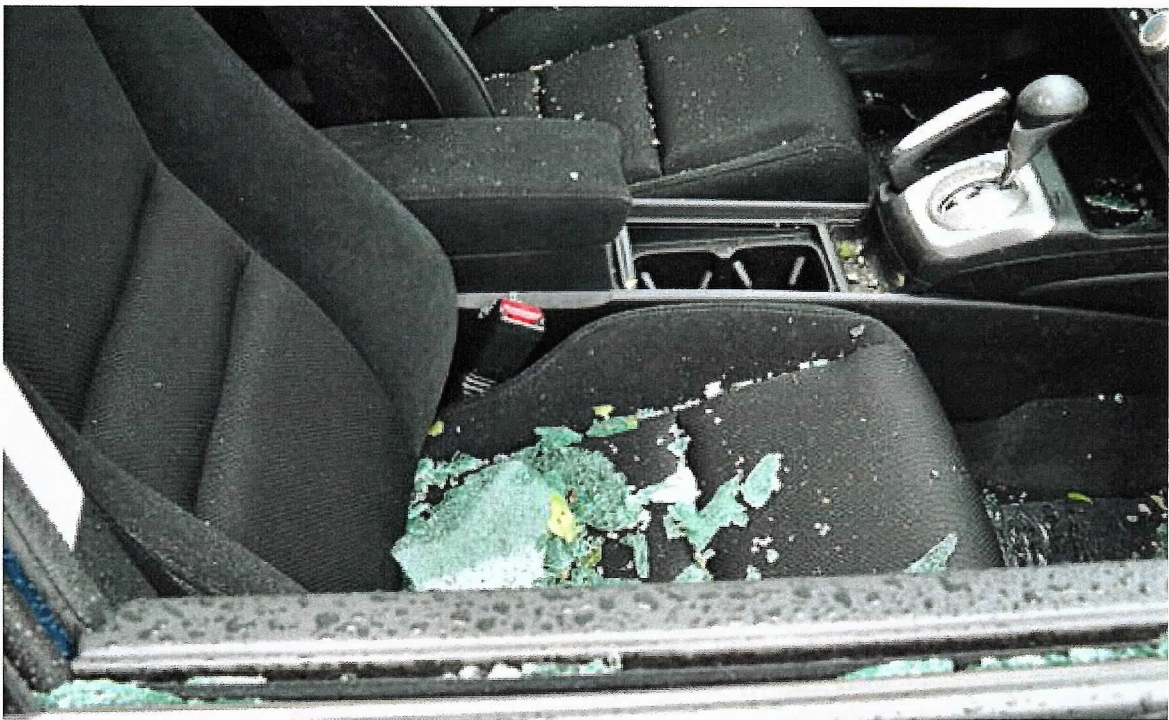


Damaged telephone wires and fallen trees. (Submitted by Genesse Walker-Scace)





Local businesses suffered damaged exteriors. (Submitted by Genessee Walker-Scace)



Cars on the lot at the Honda car dealership suffered extensive damage. (Submitted by Genessee Walker-Scace)