



Public Information Statement

Issued by NWS Tampa Bay Area, FL

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Public Information Statement

National Weather Service Tampa Bay Ruskin FL
620 PM EDT Mon Oct 21 2024

...[NWS](#) Damage Survey for [Hurricane Milton](#) [Tornado](#) Event - New and Updated Tracks...

.Update...Based upon additional surveys and information received, two new tornadoes were added: The Jonathan Harbour [tornado](#) and the Bereah [tornado](#). This now brings the total [tornado](#) count to eleven. The most notable change, however, was to extend the Fort Myers [tornado](#) track southward to a neighborhood just north of U.S. 41, but south of Gladiolus Drive. [Radar](#) data and physical surveys support a continuous swath of damage south of Page Field that was EF0 to EF1 strength. Thus, the track has been updated, but no further adjustments to intensity have been made at this time. Unless additional information is received, we do not anticipate any further updates to this statement for Milton. One official, please reference the [NWS Storm Event Database](#) for additional information.

.Overview...Several tornadoes embedded within rainbands associated with [Hurricane Milton](#) impacted the region as the [hurricane](#) approached. These are preliminary findings for the areas that have been surveyed.

.Jonathan Harbour [Tornado](#)...

Rating: EF0
Estimated Peak Wind: 80 mph
Path Length /statute/: 0.24 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 33 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 10/09/2024
Start Time: 11:45 AM EDT
Start Location: 1 ENE Punta Rassa / [Lee](#) County / FL
Start [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 26.493 / -81.9965

End Date: 10/09/2024
End Time: 11:47 AM EDT
End Location: 1 NE Punta Rassa / [Lee](#) County / FL
End [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 26.4964 / -81.997

Survey Summary:
The first [tornado](#) of the day to impact Fort Myers, this [supercell](#) went on to produce the Matlacha [Tornado](#) a few minutes later. As the [cell](#) approached the coast, a brief [tornado](#) touched down in the Jonathan Harbour community, causing damage to one home, destroying a houseboat, and lifting a second pontoon boat onto a dock. The [tornado](#) then continued into Punta Rassa Cove before dissipating.

.Matlacha [Tornado](#)...

Rating: EF1
Estimated Peak Wind: 105 mph
Path Length /statute/: 0.91 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 100 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 10/09/2024
Start Time: 11:54 AM EDT
Start Location: 3 ENE Pine Island / [FL](#)
Start [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 26.6281 / -82.0679

End Date: 10/09/2024
End Time: 11:56 AM EDT
End Location: 3 NE Pine Island / [FL](#)
End [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 26.6394 / -82.0753

Survey Summary:
A [waterspout](#) moved over the Matlacha area, causing roof and siding damage to several homes along the track. The worst of the damage was to two homes, one where half of the roof was ripped off, and the other was a mobile home that had half the roof ripped off and walls collapse under it. The [tornado](#) moved back over the water and dissipated.

.Fort Myers [Tornado](#)...

Rating: EF2
Estimated Peak Wind: 132 mph
Path Length /statute/: 16.56 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 500 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 10/09/2024
Start Time: 12:09 PM EDT
Start Location: 2 SSE Fort Myers Villas / [Lee](#) County / FL
Start [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 26.5215 / -81.8602

End Date: 10/09/2024
End Time: 12:41 PM EDT
End Location: 4 NW North Fort Myers / [Lee](#) County / FL
End [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 26.7498 / -81.9258

Survey Summary:
After additional surveying, the [tornado](#) is now estimated to have begun just north of US41 and just south of Gladiolus Drive with some minor roof damage. The strongest damage in Fort Myers was then noted to the north-northwest across Colonial Blvd. along Orangewood Ave. where a large portion of a roof was torn off of a home and the wall in the garage area collapsed. Roof damage was also noted across the street from this point, but was already being repaired. The track continued to the north-northwest across the Fort Myers Country Club, with snapped and uprooted trees noted along the track as well as other minor to moderate damage to homes. The [tornado](#) then crossed the Caloosahatchee River. Continuing into North Fort Myers, the [tornado](#) weakened, but continued to produce [scattered](#) tree damage before damaging several structures in a manufactured home community. Continuing northward, the [tornado](#) then intensified once more, and the strongest damage was noted to a warehouse structure on the north side of Pine Island Rd. As the [tornado](#) continued on a N-NW track, passing through several additional neighborhoods, [scattered](#) tree and roof damage continued to be noted. The [tornado](#) then passed through another manufactured home community, producing significant damage to several structures before lifting near U.S. 41 at approximately 12:41PM.

.Wild Island - Lorida [Tornado](#)...

Rating: EF1
Estimated Peak Wind: 105 mph
Path Length /statute/: 6.83 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 500 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 10/09/2024
Start Time: 12:37 PM EDT
Start Location: 3 E Lake Istokpoga / Highlands County / FL
Start [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 27.362 / -81.205

End Date: 10/09/2024
End Time: 12:50 PM EDT
End Location: 1 ENE Lorida / Highlands County / FL
End [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 27.4556 / -81.2414

Survey Summary:
[Tornado](#) estimated to have begun over rural area south of Wild Island and county road 621 in conjunction with robust [reflectivity](#) and velocity signatures via the distant KTBW [radar](#). Social media pictures and videos of the [tornado](#) emerged shortly thereafter of the [tornado](#) passing near Wild Island while tracking north-northwest. The [tornado](#) continued over mostly rural countryside for another approximately five miles with additional pictures and videos capturing it along its track, and a TDS became apparent at a [height](#) up to around six thousand feet as the [circulation](#) neared Hacienda Drive, about a mile before crossing U.S. Highway 98 east of Lorida, where several [power](#) poles and pine trees were snapped. Continuing north-northwest, the [tornado](#) then tracked across Bluff Hammock Rd where eyewitnesses reported its passage, and then North Lake Drive, where it peeled off large metal roof panels of an outbuilding and buckled its doors, before a weakening [radar](#) signature suggested the [tornado](#) likely weakened and dissipated.

.El Jobean [Tornado](#)...

Rating: EF1
Estimated Peak Wind: 94 mph
Path Length /statute/: 2.58 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 450 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 10/09/2024
Start Time: 12:44 PM EDT
Start Location: 2 SE El Jobean / Charlotte County / FL
Start [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 26.9443 / -82.1875

End Date: 10/09/2024
End Time: 12:43 PM EDT
End Location: EL Jobean / Charlotte County / FL
End [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 26.9721 / -82.205

Survey Summary:
A brief [tornado](#) began as a [waterspout](#) in the mouth of the Myakka River near Charlotte Harbor. As the parent [cell](#) pivoted inland, the [tornado](#) moved onshore in El Jobean, producing EF1 damage in the small community along the river. After moving through, the [tornado](#) quickly dissipated.

.Babcock Area [Tornado](#)...

Rating: EF0
Estimated Peak Wind: 85 mph
Path Length /statute/: 0.51 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 25 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 10/09/2024
Start Time: 12:54 PM EDT
Start Location: 4 S Babcock Webb Wma / Charlotte County / FL
Start [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 26.8199 / -81.8348

End Date: 10/09/2024
End Time: 12:56 PM EDT
End Location: 4 S Babcock Webb Wma / Charlotte County / FL
End [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 26.8272 / -81.8348

Survey Summary:
A second brief [tornado](#) touched down from the same cyclical [supercell](#) that produced the longer-lived Fort Myers [tornado](#). A debris signature was noted on local [radar](#) in the vicinity, and several trees were uprooted and one structure was damaged while a camper was overturned.

.Lake Placid [Tornado](#)...

Rating: EF2
Estimated Peak Wind: 130 mph
Path Length /statute/: 2.87 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 300 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 1

Start Date: 10/09/2024
Start Time: 02:13 PM EDT
Start Location: 2 ENE Lake Placid / Highlands County / FL
Start [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 27.3052 / -81.342

End Date: 10/09/2024
End Time: 02:20 PM EDT
End Location: 3 N Lake Placid / Highlands County / FL
End [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 27.3409 / -81.3653

Survey Summary:
[Tornado](#) estimated to have begun near the southeastern shore of Lake Clay before moving north-northwest across the lake and entering the Tropical Harbor Mobile Home community situated along the northern shore of the lake. Approximately 20 to 30 units suffered damage, primarily consisting of carports being peeled off or removed, along with various degrees of roof, carport and patio damage. A few units suffered partial wall collapses as a result of the roof being compromised, with 1 injury as a result when a woman sheltering inside her bedroom was injured by a collapsing exterior wall. One unit was found to have been displaced approximately one foot off its supports, along with its roof mostly removed and a few walls collapsed. A number of large limbs were felled in the community as well. The [tornado](#) continued to track north-northwest across unpopulated areas beyond the mobile home park, then across a solar farm, before [likely](#) dissipating near the southern shore of Lake Apherloe.

.Venus [Tornado](#)...

Rating: EF1
Estimated Peak Wind: 105 mph
Path Length /statute/: 0.59 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 100 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 10/09/2024
Start Time: 02:30 PM EDT
Start Location: Venus / Highlands County / FL
Start [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 27.0669 / -81.3474

End Date: 10/09/2024
End Time: 02:32 PM EDT
End Location: 1 N Venus / Highlands County / FL
End [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 27.0754 / -81.3464

Survey Summary:
[Tornado](#) damage was first observed near the intersection of County Rd 731 and Alphonso Lane, where several hardwood oaks had large branches snapped along a with a home with roof and garage damage. The track continued north along Alphonso Lane producing roof damage to an additional home and shed, while snapping several pine trees and uprooting a few palm trees. A small storage structure was destroyed and multiple long trailers, a large pickup truck and horse trailer were overturned at one residence, while another had a speedboat knocked into it after being blown off its trailer. Another residence had a RV moved about 100 yards from a carport, with an ATV at the location flipped. The damage path continued north for another quarter-mile, snapping two large oak trees near the trunk before becoming difficult to discern thereafter, with the [tornado](#) estimated to have dissipated.

.Archbold [Tornado](#)...

Rating: EF1
Estimated Peak Wind: 85 mph
Path Length /statute/: 0.47 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 0 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 10/09/2024
Start Time: 02:42 PM EDT
Start Location: 1 S Archbold / Highlands County / FL
Start [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 27.177 / -81.3519

End Date: 10/09/2024
End Time: 02:44 PM EDT
End Location: Archbold / Highlands County / FL
End [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 27.1837 / -81.3535

Survey Summary:
[Tornado](#) is from the same [cell](#) that moved over Venus, but no known damage indicators between the points to indicate a continuous path. Half of the roof was torn off of the Archbold COOP Station building, with some minor damage to the roof of a nearby building. Trees and open fields surround the property, with the start of the track estimated, and the [rotation](#) weakening on [radar](#) shortly thereafter before reaching Lake Annie and SR 70 to the north.

.Avon Park [Tornado](#)...

Rating: EF0
Estimated Peak Wind: 85 mph
Path Length /statute/: 0.57 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 75 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 10/09/2024
Start Time: 02:47 PM EDT
Start Location: 1 SW Avon Park / Highlands County / FL
Start [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 27.588 / -81.5156

End Date: 10/09/2024
End Time: 02:48 PM EDT
End Location: 1 NE Avon Park Executive Airport / Highlands County / FL
End [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 27.596 / -81.5177

Survey Summary:
[Tornado](#) damage was first noted to Oak Tree Inn along U.S. Hwy 27 where portions of its roof were blown off and deposited in an area of trees to its rear. Large tree limbs were also snapped in the vicinity. An intermittent damage path continued off to the north-northwest west of U.S. Hwy 27 where two single-wide trailers along S Hart Avenue suffered awning damage while a piece of large metal roofing of unknown origin had been deposited between them. The final damage point presumed to have been associated with the [tornado](#) was several large oak branches snapped near State Route 64/W Main Street, with the [tornado](#) dissipating thereafter.

.Bereah [Tornado](#)...

Rating: EF1
Estimated Peak Wind: 104 mph
Path Length /statute/: 0.98 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 40 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 10/09/2024
Start Time: 02:49 PM EDT
Start Location: 6 MNW Avon Park Executive Airport / Hardee County / FL
Start [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 27.6276 / -81.617

End Date: 10/21/2024
End Time: 02:52 PM EDT
End Location: 6 MNW Avon Park Executive Airport / Hardee County / FL
End [Lat](#)/[Lon](#): 27.6415 / -81.6206

Survey Summary:
A brief [tornado](#) touched down just east of Old Town [Crack](#) Road and paralleled the road for a couple minutes, snapping trees as it went across the region, before dissipating.

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EF Scale: The Enhanced [Fujita Scale](#) classifies tornadoes into the following categories:

EF0....65 to 85 mph
EF1....86 to 110 mph
EF2....111 to 135 mph
EF3....136 to 165 mph
EF4....166 to 200 mph
EF5....>200 mph

NOTE:
The information in this statement is preliminary and subject to change pending final review of the events and publication in [NWS Storm Data](#).

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