UPDATED

Confirmed Tornado
Inwood - Dutton, Ontario
April 13, 1972

Date- Local: Thursday, April 13th, 1972
UTC: Thursday, April 13th, 1972
Time- Local: 0400
UTC: 0800
Location: Vicinity Inwood – E of Dutton (Through Glencoe)
Region: London - Middlesex
Classification: Confirmed Tornado
Category: -999
Casualties: None
Track Length: 26050 m
Width: None available
Motion: 290 degrees
Damage Estimate: None available
F-Scale Rating: F2
Code: BS
Damage Survey: None
Spotter Reports: None
Other Documents:
Newspaper articles
Phone interview notes
Map of tornado track
Newark summary sheet

Tornado F-Scale Re-Assessment

Brad L. Rousseau
Tornado Data Production Assistant, Environment Canada
January 25th, 2011

Classification: Confirmed Tornado
Date: Thursday, April 13th, 1972
Location: Vicinity Inwood – E of Dutton (Through Glencoe), London - Middlesex

Original Assessment: F2
Re-Assessment: F1
F-Code: BS
Explanation of Assessment: Barns were completely destroyed which is ranked as F2 rating in the Wind Damage Rating table.

SJS

A

TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

© F=1

F=1

ONT

1. DATE AND TIME 13·4·1972 0345 EST

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map)
ESSEX CNTY INWOOD - EAST of DUTTON
0697201

3. PATH LENGTH ☐ NOT KNOWN ☐ <1mi; ☐ 1-4mi; ☑ 5-10mi; ☐ 11-50mi; ☐ LENGTH IF>50mi

4. PATH WIDTH NOT KNOWN 5. TORNADO PART OF SQUALL LINE? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☑ UNKNOWN:

6. ANY UNUSUAL COLORATION? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☑ UNKNOWN

7. ANY UNUSUAL SOUND? ☑ YES; ☐ NO; ☐ UNKNOWN

8. IF ANSWER TO 6 OR 7 YES, ELABORATE; 7. Mrs Pat Jarvis & her husband were awakened by a terrible roaring noise.

9. LIST ANY ASSOCIATED PHENOMENA (Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.) DURATION ABOUT 1/2 MINUTE

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $100,000 (AT GLENCOE) 11. TOTAL DEATHS 10 PIGS, 2 CATTLE

12. TOTAL INJURED 13. TOTAL HOMELESS

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES

THE WINDSOR STAR, WINDSOR 13·4·1972
LONDON FREE PRESS, LONDON 14·4·1972

Telephone Interviews DEC 5, 1980

15. SUMMARIZE REMARKS PERTAINING TO (a) FUNNEL; (b) INTERESTING OR CAPRICIOUS EVENTS.

(a) no applicable remarks

(b) At Alvinston trees uprooted, barns flattened, 2 cattle killed.

In Glencoe the 250 seat covered grandstand at the fair grounds was demolished, the Ekcoe Central School unroofed also Tipp's Garage. A house trailer was picked up and thrown on its side. Jack McCoubrey just outside the village was awakened by "winds getting stronger and stronger. He called his wife when the glass in the front door was smashed but "even before we got out to the kitchen, the whole thing had died down. I guess it lasted about half a minute. Then I looked out the windows and saw my barn demolished and 10 pigs killed."

John Coad, just north of Glencoe had the narrowest escape. He was asleep in bed when a steel rod from a nearby barn was driven through his bedroom window and into the mattress on which he slept missing him by inches.

WORKSHEET

IDTO 0697201

2000 C.

(1) ORIGIN x 1742400 (5) Standard Error S_x

y 473900

2000 C.

(2) LIFT-OFF x_1 1745900 (6) Standard Error S_y

y_1 472600

(3) $(x_1 - x)$ = 3500

(4) $(y - y_1)$ = 1300

(7) DAMAGE LENGTH

$$L = [(x_1 - x)^2 + (y - y_1)^2]^{1/2}$$

(8) $\alpha = \tan^{-1} \dfrac{|y - y_1|}{|x - x_1|}$

(3)+(4) $\boxed{\rightarrow r,\theta}$ = 3733.6 m

$\boxed{x \leftrightarrow y}$ = 20°

(9) Standard Error $S_L = (S_x^2 + S_y^2)^{1/2}$

(5)+(6) $\boxed{\rightarrow r,\theta}$ = 2828 m C

(10) $\beta = \dfrac{\tan^{-1} S_L}{L}$

(7)+(9) $\boxed{\rightarrow r,\theta}$

$\boxed{x \leftrightarrow y}$ = 4°

NE quad $\phi = 90 - \alpha$

NW quad $\phi = 270 + \alpha$

SW quad $\phi = 270 - \alpha$

SE quad $\phi = 90 + \alpha$

(11) ϕ = 290°

ontario hydro

press clipping service

paper the windsor star
date APR 13 1972
source western region

Dave Jarvis 713 G 715 6

12209 rev. 8-70

APR 18 1972

File Storm Reports W

4 AM THURS APRIL 13 1972

Storm rips into Glencoe

By Star Staff Reporters

GLENCOE — For 15 minutes this morning, this tiny Middlesex community of 1,200 inhabitants was at the mercy of Mother Nature.

Tornado-like winds cut a north-south swatch through the town shortly before 4 a.m., leaving in its path severe damage to many homes and local business establishments, and an undetermined amount of damage to farms in the surrounding area. The violent winds also tore up trees, hydro and telephone lines. Total damage is expected to exceed $100,000.

Hardest hit by the storm was the three-year-old Ekcoe Central Public School where the winds caved in the roof over the gymnasium and three classrooms.

Don Miller, principal of the school, estimated the damage at $20,000.

"We're going to double up classes for the time being. The roofers are coming in this afternoon."

"It could have been much worse, I guess. Nobody was hurt."

Constable Bob Plant of the Ontario Provincial Police, Glencoe detachment, said early reports indicated at least 15 to 20 homes were seriously damaged by the winds.

The 250-seat grandstand at the town fairgrounds was destroyed. Damage is estimated at $7,000. The judge's stand, next to the grandstand, was not damaged.

Much of the damage was centred in an area north of the community.

Jack McCoubrey, RR 3 Glencoe, lost a barn and 10 little pigs in the storm. He estimated his damage at $10,000 but said he was insured.

"You hear about it all the time, but you don't think it will happen to you," Mr. McCoubrey said.

He said he fell asleep on the couch, but was awakefed by "winds getting stronger and stronger."

He called his wife when the glass in the front door was smashed in.

"But before we even got out to the kitchen the whole thing had died down. I geuss it lastedd about half a minute. Then I looked out the window and saw my barn demolished."

Neighbors of the McCoubreys, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cooper also lost a barn.

Mrs. Cooper said they were in the process of digging out the sows from underneath all the rubble. "I don't know if they're all alive or not," she said.

She said it was "just like combustion. All of a sudden everything just blew up."

Mrs. Cooper said three windows were smashed in the house and part of the roof was ripped off.

John Coad of Tait's Corners, just north of Glencoe, had the narrowest escape. He was asleep in bed when the tornado struck, and it drove a steel rod from a nearby barn through his bedroom window and into the mattress on which he slept. It missed him by inches.

Sgt. Neil Chamberlain of the Glencoe OPP said he had reports that nine hydro poles were uprooted in a row in one area of the town and that a house trailer in the same area was picked up by the winds and thrown on its side.

"TV towers are down all over the place," Sgt. Chamberlain said.

Three garages were also reported down and the roof was ripped off of Tipp's Garage.

Plate glass windows in the McDonald Motor Sales building were also reported shattered.

Reeve Frank Hamilton blamed the damage on heavy rains and very strong winds. "I personally didn't hear a thing," he said. "But a fellow told me strong winds lasted about 15 minutes."

Paul Peplicky, owner of John Deere farm equipment, said his place was "pretty extensively damaged. All the tar paper was blown off the roof. There's water all over the place. I think a lot of things are ruined," he said.

Tornado-like winds also swept through a 48-square mile rural area in southwestern Mason County in Michigan Wednesday night, injuring eight persons and damaging 47 buildings.

No fatalities were reported.

The heavy winds and rains that swept across western Michigan also caused damage in Ottawa, Kent and Lake counties.

At Grand Rapids and Jenison and adjacent Ottawa County, about 5,000 homes were temporarily without power when lightning struck transformers in two separate locations.

Essex, Kent and Lambton counties suffer no damage from the overnight storm.

JACK McCOUBREY RR#3 (519) 287-2638

BILL COOPER (519) 287-5443 ← Tornado crossed hwy 401 east of DuHon according to Cooper.

JOHN COAD (519) 287-3097

03 45

On King St, Glencoe Were asleep. Heard a terrible roar which woke them up. looked out the window and saw swirling funnel moving at a tremendous speed and moving towards the south

Mrs PAT JARVIS (519) 287-3302
(target of Conc. Pd Glencoe coming home Saw funnel

press clipping service

paper london free press
date APR 14 1972
source western region

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APRIL THURS 13 1972

APR 18 1972 W

Thousands of dollars damage

Rain, wind lash Western Ontarioarea

A devastating wind storm, accompanied by torrents of rain, hopscotched across Western Ontario in twister-like fashion early Thursday, flattening buildings, ripping out power lines and causing thousands of dollars damage.

No one was reported injured, although several persons narrowly escaped flying debris kicked up by the storm.

The turbulent winds whipped into Ontario from Michigan, cutting an eastward swath of destruction from Port Huron as they swirled down briefly at Alvinston and Glencoe, roared through Elgin County, and took a final swing at Embro before passing from the district.

The storm scored a bullseye at Glencoe, stripping shingles from homes, knocking Ekcoe Central School out of commission until at least Monday, and dropping buildings like bowling pins.

Residents of Glencoe said the high wind lasted only two or three minutes but it was long enough to cause thousands of dollars in damage, with the Ekcoe school the hardest hit.

John Gummow, director of education for the Middlesex board of education, walked through the devastated school Thursday with principal Don Miller, hardly believing what he saw.

Both men noticed that some doors wouldn't close, indicating the floor may have heaved and possibly the structure had been damaged.

Mr. Gummow agreed damage would run well into the thousands but said he could only guess at the repair cost. He placed that at least $30,000 with a good chance it could run higher.

Park Sideroad in front of the school was closed as downed power lines zig-zagged into the countryside.

The storm made its first direct hit near the Brooke Township village of Alvinston, 35 miles east of Sarnia, leaving a seven-mile trail of destruction.

Several trees were uprooted and a number of barns damaged or flattened in the wake of the high winds which concentrated along Concession 2 and then moved up the west side of Highway 79.

One Concession 2 farmer, Walter Werden, discovered two buildings smashed, one containing a bee colony and the other a garage for his car.

The roof of a feed barn was torn off and a cattle barn demolished at the farm of Donald McKellar, RR 4, Alvinston. The storm claimed two of his cattle.

While area residents were surveying the damage, a young London couple sat in their kitchen on the 12th floor of the Westmount Gate apartments at 790 Wonderland Road leafing through a newspaper section under "apartments for rent."

Just before 4 a.m. a wild bolt of lightning drilled a hole through the concrete roof over their bedroom knocking cement and plaster over the couple.

For Mr. and Mrs. Mike Drapaka, the shock of flying plaster, concrete and water was enough for them to decide to move. Just a month ago, a large picture window in their living room blew out of its frame.

In Glencoe, the village lost its 500-seat covered grandstand at the fair grounds to the windstorm and even the blueprints to a new arena now under construction.

Verd Edwards, foreman on the arena construction job, pointed to a pile of new plywood and a few studs nearby that only a few hours before was the construction office.

"There's one wall way over there," he said pointing to some more wood 150 yards away. "The blueprints were in there but they are probably in Dutton by now. At least we can't find them. It sure made a hell of a mess around here."

Earlier Mr. Edwards found the office telephone 75 yards from where it was hooked up in the 10-by-10-foot construction office.

"Nobody can tell me that was just a big wind, it sure as hell had to be a twister."

Throughout the village, television antennas lay twisted like coiling snakes over roofs, lawns and garages. Many homes were partially stripped of their shingles, porches were knocked off and garages lay flattened.

Back at the Ekcoe school, pupils who normally would be attending classes found themselves faced with a long weekend. Officials figure they will have them back in school by Monday.

Mr. Miller, school principal, said classrooms in the east section of the building would be useable.

Mr. Gummow said other classrooms would likely be used in the area including the Glencoe District High School.

Jack Boitson of Ontario Hydro said the storm caused several headaches within a 50-mile radius of London.

Several hundred customers in the Glencoe area were left without service and seven extra crews were sent to help repair the extensive damage of downed lines and poles.

Rural customers around London, St. Thomas and Strathroy reported hydro interruptions, he said, with about 75 homes in the East Elgin area of Aylmer complaining of power blackouts due to the storm.

At Brigden, 15 miles southwest of Sarnia, there was a six-hour power blackout when a tree fell across a high voltage line at 3 a.m.

London escaped the brunt of Thursday's storm with only a few minor problems blamed on lightning and rain.

Public Utilities Commission general manager A. L. Furanna said the only major service interruption came in the Oak Park district where about 35 townhouses were cut off from power for 2½ hours.

He said lightning struck a substation at Royal Park Road and Guildwood Avenue, resulting in a blown fuse.

At Embro, near Woodstock, lightning struck the 185-foot steeple at Knox United Church, causing extensive fire and water damage estimated at $35,000.

At the height of the blaze, a 20-pound weathervane toppled from the peak, falling in the midst of the firefighters and narrowly missing the men.

Rev. A. G. Pease said he still intends to conduct services as usual Sunday morning at the church. Directors are to meet soon to discuss repair plans, he added.

Brooke TP

WALTER WERDEN CONC 2 (519) 898-5481

DONALD McKELLAR RR #4 ALVINSTON (519) 898-5532

L. JANICEK (519) 898-5504

said that L. Janicek lived on Hwy 80 towards Inwood"