



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1996

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

**DCZ001**

**District Of Columbia**

<b>18</b>	<b>1400EST</b>								
<b>21</b>	<b>1700EST</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>Excessive Heat</b>

An early-season four-day heat wave, following a period of cooler than normal weather, took its toll on outdoor enthusiasts who were unprepared for the dramatic temperature swing. Not one week earlier, minimum temperatures ranged from the lower 30s in the cooler suburbs to the lower 40s downtown; only one day before the heat wave began, maximum temperatures will in the 60s.

One person, a 42 year old male, suffered heat stroke in Northwest. May 20 was the hottest day of the period; Washington/National airport (DCA) set a new record at 96°F. Temperatures were in the mid and upper 90s during the period, but heat indices were held at the actual temperatures by low relative humidity. Potomac Electric Power Co (PEPCO) administered "brown-outs" in the Washington metropolitan area to reduce energy consumption.

### MARYLAND, Central

**Charles County  
South Portion**

<b>04</b>	<b>2105EST</b>								
					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2K</b>		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>

A large persistent thunderstorm moved across the tidal Potomac River from Stafford and King George Cos in Virginia into southern Charles Co. Scattered trees were blown down.

**Calvert County  
Prince Frederick**

<b>04</b>	<b>2108EST</b>								
					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G60)</b>

A severe thunderstorm produced wind gusts of at least 69 mph at an automated weather station in Prince Frederick.

**St. Mary'S County  
Avenue to  
Compton**

<b>04</b>	<b>2125EST 2135EST</b>								
					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15K</b>		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>

The same rotating thunderstorm that early struck Charles Co moved into southern St. Marys Co, knocking down trees and causing sporadic power outages in Compton and Avenue. One tree fell into a home in Compton.

**St. Mary'S County  
Avenue to  
Breton Bay**

<b>04</b>	<b>2125EST 2130EST</b>								
					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30K</b>		<b>Lightning</b>

Lightning struck in both Avenue and Breton Bay, igniting a garage fire (Avenue) at 2125EST and a house fire (Breton Bay) at 2130EST.

**Charles County  
Hilltop**

<b>04</b>	<b>2139EST</b>								
					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25K</b>		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>

Thunderstorm winds blew the roof of a house near the intersection of Annapolis Road and state route 6.

**St. Mary'S County  
Lexington Park to  
Ridge**

<b>04</b>	<b>2140EST 2155EST</b>								
					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5K</b>		<b>Hail (2.00)</b>

Two inch diameter hail was reported by spotters in Lexington Park, and hail up to 1 inch in diameter was reported farther southeast, extending to Ridge.

**Prince George'S County  
Accokeek**

<b>04</b>	<b>2150EST</b>								
					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10K</b>		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>

The same bow-echo which produced a wind gusts of 79 mph at Fort Belvoir (Fairfax Co Virginia) moved across the Potomac River into southern Prince Georges Co, causing substantial tree damage in Accokeek. In an area 300 feet long by 40 feet wide along Farmington Road, 15 large trees were uprooted or snapped at one residence.

**Charles County  
La Plata**

<b>04</b>	<b>2205EST</b>								
					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5K</b>		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>

The same line of thunderstorms that struck southern Prince Georges Co moments earlier blew down some trees and power lines in and around La Plata. Scattered power outages also occurred in the area.

**Prince George'S County  
Clinton to  
Upper Marlboro**

<b>04</b>	<b>2210EST 2225EST</b>								
					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5K</b>		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>

The bow-echo that struck southern Prince Georges and Charles Co continued to the east-northeast, causing scattered tree and power lines damage in Clinton and Upper Marlboro.

**St. Mary'S County  
Mechanicsville to  
Point No Point**

<b>04</b>	<b>2215EST 2230EST</b>								
					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5K</b>		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G70)</b>

A second line of severe thunderstorms moved across St Mary's Co, causing additional tree damage in the Mechanicsville area. A ship stationed at Pt. No Point recorded wind gusts between 70 and 80 knots roughly at 2227-2230EST.



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### MARYLAND, Central

**Calvert County**  
**St Leonard**

04	2230EST				0	0	2K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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Thunderstorm winds blew down trees in St Leonard (southern Calvert Co).

**Harford County**  
**Bel Air**

11	1505EST				0	0	8K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G52)</b>
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Estimated wind gusts to 60 mph felled several large trees and limbs in Bel Air. A row of Bradford Pears was knocked down along Major's Choice Road.

**Charles County**  
**5 SW Waldorf**

11	1605EST				0	0	5K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G52)</b>
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Estimated wind gusts to 60 mph felled a few trees, some onto power lines, in the White Plains area near Waldorf.

**MDZ003>007-009>011-013>014-016>018**

**Washington - Frederick - Carroll - Northern Baltimore - Harford - Montgomery - Howard - Southern Baltimore - Prince Georges - Anne Arundel - Charles - St. Mary'S - Calvert**

18	1400EST				0	2			<b>Excessive Heat</b>
21	1700EST								

An early-season four-day heat wave, following a period of cool and generally cloudy weather, took it's toll on outdoor enthusiasts who were unprepared for the dramatic temperature swing. Two persons suffered heat stroke in Washington Co (MDZ003), requiring hospitalization.

Temperatures for the period averaged in the mid to upper 90s, yet less than a week earlier, fruit crops in western Maryland were threatened by subfreezing temperatures. In fact, daily maxima one and two days prior to the heat wave were in the 60s. Several record high temperatures were shattered, including two at Patuxent River NAS (MDZ017) on the 19th and 20th. In fact, Patuxent River NAS was the sole official site to reach the century mark (on the 20th). Potomac Electric Power Co (PEPCO) induced a small-scale "brownout" in the Washington Metropolitan area to reduce energy consumption.

### VIRGINIA, North

**Page County**  
**Shenandoah**

04	1900EST				0	0			<b>Hail (0.75)</b>
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**Highland County**  
**All**

04	1930EST				0	0	2K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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The Highland Co sheriff's department reported scattered trees blown down throughout the county.

**Rappahannock County**  
**Woodville**

04	1930EST				0	0	3K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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A local power company reported several trees down, some onto power lines, in Woodville.

**Shenandoah County**  
**New Market**

04	1930EST				0	0	10K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G61)</b>
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A microburst produced wind gusts estimated at 70 mph, which blew down numerous tents at a Boy Scout "camporee" in the New Market Battlefield Park. Fortunately, there were no injuries among the 1500 scouts attending the event.

**Culpeper County**  
**5 W Culpeper**

04	1940EST				0	0			<b>Hail (0.75)</b>
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**Augusta County**  
**Augusta Springs**

04	1945EST				0	0	15K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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Thunderstorm winds blew down trees at a youth camp near Augusta Springs off highway 42. One tree fell onto an automobile. Wind gusts caused minor damage to one of the camp's buildings.

**Rockingham County**  
**5 NW Bridgewater to  
Bridgewater**

04	1950EST 2000EST				0	0	8K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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A bowing line of thunderstorms swept across central and southern Rockingham Co, knocking down trees in the Bridgewater area. More than a half dozen large trees were felled along state route 257 near Montezuma; several others were knocked down in Bridgewater. Power was temporarily lost in the area.

**Culpeper County**  
**Culpeper to  
10 E Culpeper**

04	1955EST 2010EST				0	0	5K		<b>Hail (4.50)</b>
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A large rotating thunderstorm dropped a swath of large hail across Culpeper Co. Three-quarter inch sized hail fell west of Culpeper. Golfball and ping-pong ball sized hail was reported in Richardsville at 2010EST, shattering an automobile windshield and side window. Between 1955 and 2010EST, softball sized hail fell in Lignum, a small town between Culpeper and



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### VIRGINIA, North

Richardsville.

#### Clarke County Boyce

04	2000EST				0	0	2K		<b>Lightning</b>
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Lightning started a small fire at a Clarke Co residence near Boyce. Fire damage was reported to the television antenna and associated cable, as well as window jambs.

#### Rockingham County Timberville

04	2004EST				0	0	2K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G51)</b>
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Thunderstorm winds gusted to 59 mph, and a few trees were knocked down, in the town of Timberville.

#### Rockingham County Harrisonburg to 3 E Harrisonburg

04	2005EST 2010EST				0	0	100K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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The same bowing thunderstorm line, which produced nearly simultaneous reports of damage in the extreme northern and southwestern portions of the county, caused more substantial problems in eastern Harrisonburg. Trees were blown into mobile homes, with some sustaining heavy damage.

#### Augusta County Staunton to Waynesboro

04	2005EST 2020EST				0	0	35K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G51)</b>
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Thunderstorm winds blew down trees in the Staunton area. A small building was destroyed at a park. Wind gusts of 59 mph were reported in south central Augusta Co at 2010EST. Two automobiles were damaged by fallen trees in Lynndhurst, and a barn was destroyed as well. Another tree fell onto an unoccupied van in Waynesboro.

#### Prince William County South Portion

04	2010EST 2018EST				0	0	15K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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Thunderstorm winds caused a small barn to collapse in the southern part of the county. Virginia Power reported 30 poles were snapped. One-inch hail fell in the Summerduck community.

#### Augusta County Waynesboro

04	2020EST				0	0	25K		<b>Lightning</b>
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Three cows and seven calves were killed by a lightning strike in Stuarts Draft.

#### Page County Luray

04	2025EST				0	0	3K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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Thunderstorm winds knocked down numerous trees along federal highway 211.

#### Albemarle County Charlottesville

04	2025EST				0	0	75K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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The same bow-echo that ripped Augusta and Rockingham Cos blew down hundreds of trees and power lines in Charlottesville and areas north and east of town. An historic red oak, reportedly the second largest in the state (8 feet in diameter), was felled. The fallen tree damaged a nearby automobile and truck. Eighteen trees fell in one residence's back yard. Several others fell onto automobiles, and one pierced the Observatory Hill dining hall.

#### Stafford County Stafford to Falmouth

04	2025EST 2035EST				0	0	8K		<b>Hail (1.75)</b>
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A large rotating thunderstorm dropped large hail, and generated damaging winds, as it moved across Stafford Co. Golfball sized hail (1 and 3/4 inch) was reported in Stafford at around 2030EST. Some cars were dented; the hail tore holes in vinyl siding of a few residences but did not penetrate the wood underneath. Several trees were also knocked down between Stafford and Falmouth.

#### Nelson County Afton Mountain to Nellys Ford

04	2032EST 2035EST				0	0	2K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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A bow-echo which moved through Augusta Co moments earlier caused damage in northern Nelson Co, in the form of scattered downed trees between Afton Mountain and Nellys Ford.

#### Madison County Northwest Portion

04	2035EST				0	0	5K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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Thunderstorm winds knocked down several trees in northwestern Madison Co.

#### Greene County Countywide

04	2035EST				0	0	15K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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Numerous trees were downed across the county by thunderstorm winds.



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### VIRGINIA, North

#### Rappahannock County Sperryville

04	2040EST				0	0	40K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G52)</b> Wind gusts estimated at 60 mph (Skywarn spotter report) knocked down trees and power lines in the Sperryville area. A rooftop tent was blown off of a country inn, and a barn reportedly collapsed from the winds in Net hers.
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#### Rappahannock County Washington

04	2040EST				0	0	5K	5K	<b>Lightning</b> Trees were struck by lightning in Washington, as were two cattle.
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#### Culpeper County Northwest Portion

04	2045EST				0	0	3K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b> Thunderstorm winds downed trees in the north and west portions of the county.
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#### Fauquier County 6 S Warrenton

04	2050EST				0	0	20K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b> Thunderstorm winds uprooted trees, with one falling onto an automobile. A home sustained minor siding damage, and 5700 Rappahannock Electric Cooperative customers (district-wide) were without power. A trampoline was flipped by the winds onto an automobile in the Meadowbrook subdivision.
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#### Orange County Gordonsville

04	2050EST				0	0	75K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b> Thunderstorm winds downed numerous trees, several onto residences and vehicles. One tree crashed into a three-bedroom home, rendering it temporarily uninhabitable. Of the more than 50 trees felled, several had large trunks. Numerous homes lost power during the storm; in some cases, power was not restored until the following day.
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#### King George County King George

04	2050EST				0	0	5K		<b>Hail (1.75)</b> The same storm that hit Culpeper and Stafford Counties continued east across King George County. Golfball sized hail covered the ground in King George, with some damage reported to automobiles (dents) in the area.
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#### Fauquier County Southeast Portion

04	2105EST				0	0			<b>Hail (0.75)</b> Three quarter inch sized hail fell in the southeastern portion of the county.
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#### Stafford County 3 S Quantico to 2 N Falmouth

04	2110EST 2120EST				0	0	5K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b> Trees were downed in the east portion of the county, at two general locations: one south of Quantico MCAS, and another just north of Falmouth along federal highway 1.
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#### Prince William County 2 SE Manassas

04	2115EST				0	0	120K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b> A severe thunderstorm ripped through the Prince William Co Fairgrounds during the weekend of the Sugarloaf Art Fair, knocking down a portion of the main tent which housed 118 vendors. Half of the booths were damaged, and most of the crafts at those booths destroyed. Damage to goods alone was estimated at \$100 thousand.
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#### Prince William County Dale City to Woodbridge

04	2125EST 2127EST				0	1	75K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b> Thunderstorm winds blew down dozens of trees in the Woodbridge and Dale City areas. One woman was injured by fallen tree debris which crashed through her bedroom window. A shed was demolished by a fallen tree. Numerous trees fell in the Triangle area, south of Woodbridge.
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#### Prince William County Woodbridge

04	2125EST				0	0	8K		<b>Lightning</b> Lightning struck a transformer outside the Potomac News building, damaging some computers and a printing press.
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#### Fairfax County Ft Belvoir

04	2132EST				0	0			<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G69)</b> The weather observer at Ft Belvoir (DAA) measured a thunderstorm wind gust of 79 mph.
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#### Spotsylvania County Lake Anna to Partlow

04	2140EST 2145EST				0	0	50K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G75)</b>
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The same bow-echo/supercell which earlier produced numerous instances of wind damage and large hail over the western piedmont and Shenandoah Valley earlier in the evening continued to wreak havoc along the coastal plain.

Widespread wind damage was reported south of local route 606 in southern Spotsylvania Co. A wind gust of 86 mph was recorded at the North Anna Power Station (in Louisa Co just over the line). Numerous trees were snapped or uprooted, including



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### VIRGINIA, North

white oaks 2 to 3 feet in diameter. Damage was greatest in Partlow, where trees fell onto some homes. Some skirting was blown off of trailers, and the roof of one trailer was blown off. Windows were broken and there was some shingle damage.

#### Spotsylvania County

##### Partlow

04	2145EST	0	1	5K	<b>Lightning</b>
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A man was injured when lightning struck a tree near the porch on which he was standing. He was knocked into shock, but not unconscious. Another lightning strike started a fire in an abandoned trailer.

#### Fairfax County

##### Alexandria

04	2145EST	0	0	<b>Hail (0.75)</b>
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An off-duty forecaster reported three quarter inch sized hail in Alexandria.

#### Augusta County

##### Waynesboro

11	1410EST	0	0	5K	<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>
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Several large limbs were blown down by thunderstorm winds; 4 onto power lines, knocking them down. Around 250 customers were without power.

#### Highland County

##### Countywide

16	2300EST	0	0	100K	<b>Flash Flood</b>
17	0500EST				

Training thunderstorms dropped an estimated 4 1/2 to 6 inches of rain onto previously saturated soil, producing widespread flooding. Mud and rock slides were common along federal highway 220, and other large rocks were found on local route 678. Evacuations were ordered in Mustoe, where local route 607 washed out. The evacuations were prompted by 2 inches of rain in a 2 hour period which brought streams and creeks rapidly out of their banks.

Nearly all basements received some degree of flooding in Mustoe, and numerous others were flooded in Monterey.

#### Highland County

##### Mustoe

17	0100EST	0	0	1K	<b>Lightning</b>
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Lightning struck and destroyed a wooden barn in Mustoe.

#### VAZ025>026-029>031-036>042-050>057

**Augusta - Rockingham - Page - Warren - Clarke - Nelson - Albemarle - Greene - Madison - Rappahannock - Fauquier - Loudoun - Orange - Culpeper - Prince William - Fairfax - Arlington - Stafford - Spotsylvania - King George**

18	1200EST	0	0	<b>Excessive Heat</b>
21	1700EST			

An early-season four day heat wave, which followed a spring characterized by cooler than normal temperatures and above normal cloud cover, took its toll on outdoor enthusiasts unprepared for the dramatic temperature swing. Less than a week earlier, some crops in the northern Shenandoah Valley were threatened by subfreezing temperatures!

Although there were no serious injuries (e.g., heat stroke) in northern Virginia, hundreds of residents sustained varying degrees of heat exhaustion. On May 21, thousands of school children were attending an air show at the Manassas Airpark (VAZ052). Heat exhaustion affected just over 100 of the children; most were treated at the scene, but others were taken to Prince William Co hospital and released. Farther south, near Orange (VAZ050), 130 persons were taken ill with heat exhaustion on the 19th. Alexandria city (VAC500) reported 3 cases of heat exhaustion.

Many school districts in the piedmont and Shenandoah Valley closed for all or part of the 20th and 21st. The hottest day of the period was Monday the 20th, when Washington/Dulles (IAD) and Washington/National (DCA) broke standing records. The Potomac Electric Power Co (PEPCO) forced a local "brownout" in the Washington metropolitan area to cut energy consumption.

#### Prince William County

##### Manassas

21	2030EST	0	0	9K	<b>Lightning</b>
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Fourteen computers were damaged at a county communications center, and a transformer destroyed at a nearby home, when lightning struck.

### WEST VIRGINIA, East

#### Pendleton County

##### 2 S Franklin

04	1930EST	0	0	1K	<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G52)</b>
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Thunderstorm winds gusted to 60 mph near Franklin, causing scattered tree damage.

#### Pendleton County

##### N Portion

05	2200EST	0	0	2K	<b>Flash Flood</b>
	2300EST				

Torrential thunderstorm rains produced areas of flash flooding between Petersburg (Grant Co) and Franklin. Federal highway 220 was temporarily closed with up to 2 feet of standing water; an estimated 8 feet of water washed out railroad ballast near Durgan Hollow (Hardy Co).



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

### WEST VIRGINIA, East

#### Hardy County

<b>Sw Portion</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>2200EST 2300EST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5K</b>		<b>Flash Flood</b>
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#### Pendleton County

<b>S Half</b>	<b>16 17</b>	<b>2130EST 0400EST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75K</b>		<b>Flash Flood</b>
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Training thunderstorms over the lower Potomac Highlands dumped an estimated 4 to 5 inches of rain onto previously saturated soil, producing widespread flooding. Mud and rock slides most likely occurred across the southern half of the county; federal highway 220 was closed near Franklin. At least two evacuations were ordered; one at the Big Run (Circleville) and another at a nearby trailer park.

#### Pendleton County

<b>Riverton</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1700EST 2000EST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5K</b>		<b>Flash Flood</b>
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Rainfall of nearly 1 and 1/2 inches in 2 hours caused flooding in Riverton. The flooding washed out a portion of Forest Road.