

March 28, 2014
#140328-SEVERE

Contact: Joy Tsubooka, Public Information Officer
(850) 983-5254, (850) 393- 8304 Cell
joyt@santarosa.fl.gov

Severe Weather Causes Damage

Today's thunderstorms caused property damage in Santa Rosa County. Fortunately, no injuries were reported. According to the National Weather Service in Mobile, no rotation was spotted in the thunderstorm cells. The damage is thought to have been caused by a downburst. A downburst is a strong downdraft which causes damaging winds on or near the ground. According to NOAA, a strong downburst will cause roaring sounds typically associated with tornadoes. Although downbursts are not tornadoes, they can cause damage equivalent to that of a small to medium tornado.

In addition to multiple reports of downed trees and power lines, damage reported to Santa Rosa County's Emergency Communication Center includes:

- Minor damage from a downed tree to a home in the 4100 block of Price Lane in Bagdad.
- Significant roof damage to the businesses located at 8540 Navarre Parkway.
- Roof damage to a home located in the 7500 block of White Sands Boulevard on Navarre Beach.
- House fire from a possible lightning strike in the 4200 block of Spindlewick Drive in Pace causing minor damage to the attic of the home.
- Three lifeguard stands destroyed on Navarre Beach
- Two blowout panels were blown out by surf on the Navarre Beach Pier, closing the facility for approximately two hours
- The north side floating dock at the Navarre Beach Boat Ramp is closed due to damage to the dock structure. The south side floating dock remains open. FWC has been notified of the damage.
- The Navarre Visitor Center/Navarre Chamber building has roof damage, soffit damage and gutter damage. Both the Navarre Visitor Center and Navarre Chamber remain open.
- Trees in portions of Navarre Park on U.S. Hwy. 98 were damaged. The park is closed between the areas of the parking lot and the water until unsafe conditions are corrected, reopening of the closed areas are expected by noon on Saturday, March 29 .

Additionally, the high winds and heavy rains knocked over garbage and recycling carts in several areas of south Santa Rosa County allowing the contents to be blown across the neighborhoods. Our solid waste haulers are aware of the situation and are doing their best to collect the carts in a timely manner, however carts must be upright for collection by the automated trucks. Residents can help by ensuring their garbage and recycling carts are upright and by collecting any materials that may have fallen out of the carts if blown over. Due to the weather, some areas with scheduled pick up for Friday, March 28 may be delayed until Saturday.

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