

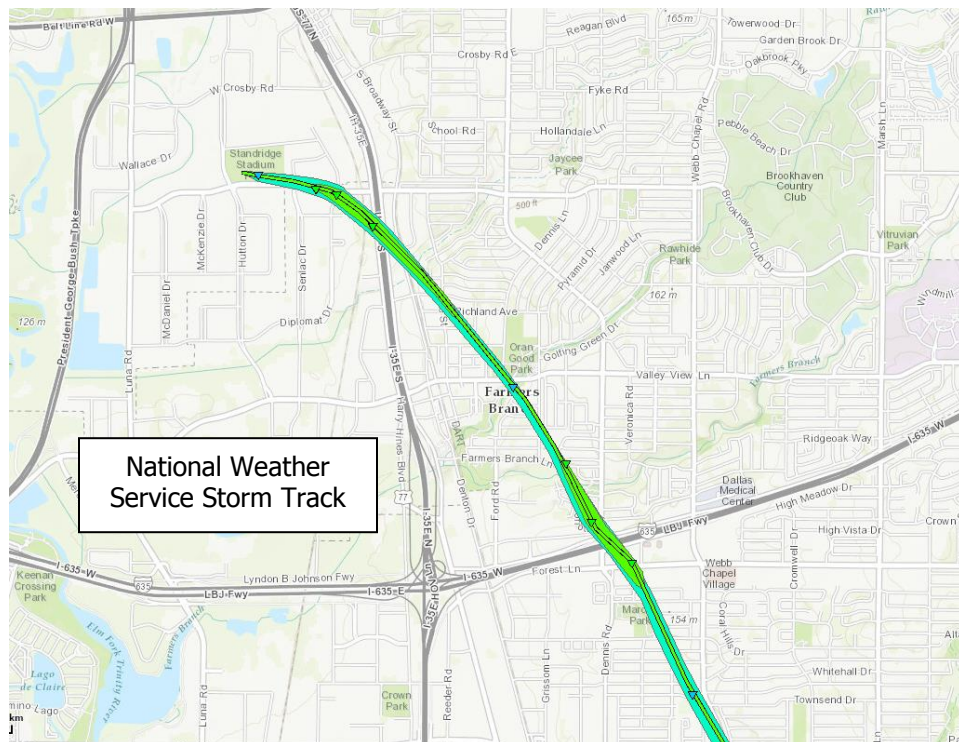


MEMORANDUM

FIRE DEPARTMENT

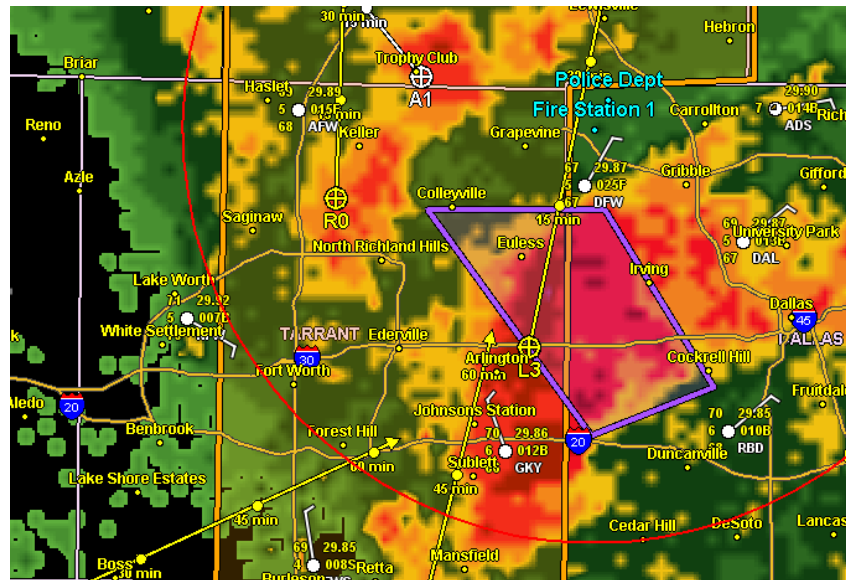
To: City Manager Gary Greer
From: Fire Chief Steve Parker,
Emergency Management Specialist Ashleigh Feryan
Date: May 28, 2015
Subject: May 24, 2015 Tornado

On May 24, 2015 at 2:34am an EF-1 (Enhanced Fujita) Tornado impacted the city of Farmers Branch. This tornado had wind speeds between 100-105 miles per hour and lasted five minutes throughout its course starting in the City of Dallas. It was only within City of Farmers Branch for +/- three minutes. It entered the city at 635 and Josey Lane and ended at Standridge Stadium in the City of Carrollton.



Emergency Management Staff were alert and monitoring the storm throughout the early morning hours. Staff monitored Channel 11 news, Twitter and the National Weather Service (NWS) Chat where the NWS distributes all information about storms including Tornado Warnings.

The only identified tornado warning area was in the City of Irving, well west of our City limits.



National Weather Service
Tornado Warning on May 24th

There was no Tornado Warning issued for the City of Farmers Branch. There was no indication on CASA radar, NWS Chat, or local media that there was potential for a tornado, only that we were in the path for a heavy rain event with an associated gust front.

Outdoor Warning Sirens

The City of Farmers Branch has adopted the North Central Texas Council of Government's Outdoor Warning System guidelines which is a regional standard among local municipalities. The guidelines state the Outdoor Warning System (OWS) will be activated upon the following criteria:

- The National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning or Severe Thunderstorm Warning with the phrase "Destructive winds in excess of 70 mph (or higher) are likely with this storm" for the immediate area. A community existing in multiple counties should pay close attention to the warning area.
- Trained storm spotters have reported a tornado in the county, neighboring county or are approaching your county and/or has the potential to affect a

specific community. (Each community should determine satisfactory methods for verifying tornado activity reports).

- Reported hail of 1.75 to 2 inches (1 inch may be more appropriate for areas or events where large numbers of people are outdoors)
- Other emergency as directed by the community's elected officials.

As Emergency Management Staff monitored the storm, criteria for activating the OWS was not met, therefore the sirens were not sounded.

Response

Fire, Police, and Public Works responded to 29 calls related to the storm Sunday morning.

Following the storm's impact, at 5:15am, Police personnel conducted an initial damage assessment and reported:

No reported injuries or power outages. Someone called dispatch and advised they heard tornado alarms. They were not activated by us - unknown what city they may have been calling from. This is the same storm that produced a tornado in Cockrill Hill and several reported funnel clouds.

Damage Locations:

2835 Villa Creek Bldg 2 - Roof of Bldg has been ripped off

2875 Villa Creek - south facing windows are destroyed, including the guardrail.

2120 Valley View - power lines down

Pepper Park, large trees destroyed

Distribution Way and Denton - railroad arms snapped

14011 Stemmons - power line snapped, transformers down. Pole damaged to the building.

14015 Stemmon (Army Navy Store) windows blown (see attached video)

2000 Valwood, significant damage - building roof blown off, trees uprooted and debris thrown onto Valwood.

City Streets was called out to remove debris from roadway. No reported flooding.

This information was reported to Dallas County Emergency Management and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) at 7:44am Sunday, May 24th, utilizing WebEOC.

The Building Official, Andy Gillies, the Fire Chief, and City Manager were out Sunday morning talking to all the businesses that were damaged. Andy Gillies

issued emergency permits to allow our businesses to start restoration as soon as possible.

At this time, it appears every building that was damaged carried insurance. By the end of Sunday all damage had been assessed by the city and NWS and all debris had been removed from the roads.

Emergency Management Specialist Feryan was in contact with the National Weather Service (NWS) and at 2pm on Sunday, May 24th. The NWS conducted a field assessment based on our damage report to determine if straight-line or tornadic winds caused the damage. After collecting the necessary information, NWS contact EM Specialist Feryan at 3:43pm, to report that an EF-1 tornado had impacted the City of Farmers Branch. Discussion began during that phone call about what exactly happened and why there was never a Tornado Warning issued for the City of Farmers Branch. The NWS issued their official report at 5:33pm Sunday evening.

The National Weather Service will be at the June 16th City Council meeting where they will be on the Agenda to make a presentation and answer questions on the May 24th storm.