NOAA - National Weather Service
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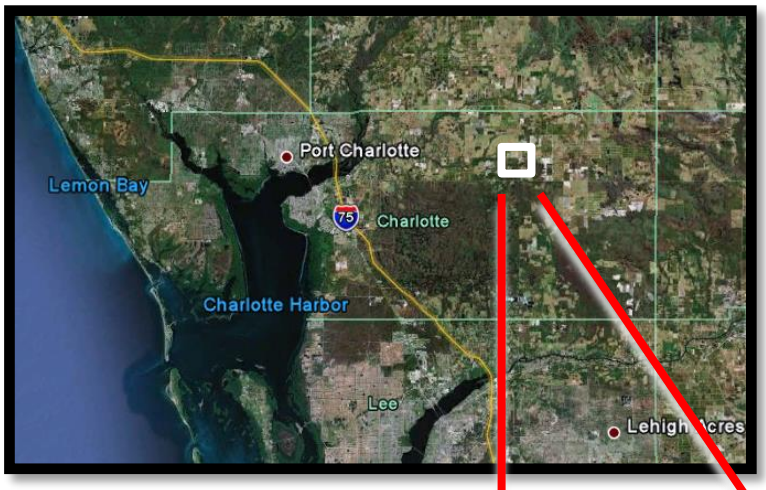
June 10, 2012 Babcock Ranch Downburst

At 4:58 PM, the National Weather Service Tampa Bay Area issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for portions of DeSoto and Charlotte Counties for the possibility of damaging winds and hail for a storm located near Babcock Ranch. 17 minutes later, at 5:15 PM on June 10, Charlotte County Sherriff's office received a report of wind damage to portions of rural eastern Charlotte County near Babcock Ranch. Damage across the area was in the form of a few downed trees and power lines as well as roof damage to metal sheds and minor damage to a mobile home. A sod farm in the area sustained damage to a center pivot irrigation system and a utility vehicle there was thrown approximately 100 yards through a field. With a combination of radar assessment and collaboration with a ground survey conducted by Charlotte County Emergency Management and interviews with local forest rangers, law enforcement, and photographs and video furnished by the media, a final determination on damage cause has been made. The evidence supports damage caused by straight line winds in a large downburst (known as a macroburst) with winds approximately 70-75 mph. It was determined that the macroburst caused damage across an area 4 miles long by 350 yards wide.



DETAILS
• Straight Line Wind (Macroburst)
• Begin: 5:15 PM
• Approximate center of damage area: Lat. 26.9751, Long -81.7578
• Damage area length: 4 miles
• Damage area width: 350 yards

Contact: logan.johnson@noaa.gov ***Date: 6/11/2012***

Wind damage to roof of metal outbuilding. **Courtesy of Charlotte County Sheriff's Office**

This photograph shows damage to a roof of a metal outbuilding at a sod farm on 31 caused by straight line winds.

Wind damage to center pivot irrigation system at sod farm. **Courtesy of Charlotte County Emergency Management**

This photograph shows damage to a center point irrigation system at the sod farm which was toppled by winds estimated up to 75 MPH.