



COUNTY OF LANCASTER

FOUNDED 1651 IN VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

LANCASTER COURTHOUSE
8311 MARY BALL ROAD
LANCASTER, VIRGINIA 22503

Don Gill
County Administrator

Stephen M. Smith
Chief

804-462-5129
804-462-0031 (FAX)
www.lancova.com

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Jack Larson, 1st District
Ernest W. Palin, Jr., 2nd District
Jason D. Bellows, 3rd District
William R. Lee, 4th District
Dr. Robert S. Westbrook, 5th District

EF-2 TORNADO CAUSES WIDESPREAD DAMAGE IN LANCASTER COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 18, 2020

The tornado which touched down in various places along the coastline in Lancaster County on August 4th has been assigned an EF-2 rating by the National Weather Service. Winds as high as 135 mph caused damage to numerous structures, uprooted trees and left destruction along the traveled path of 15.6 miles. While no deaths have been reported as a direct result from the tornado, one death occurred shortly after the tornado passed through that occurred from a medical emergency. Nine injuries to individuals have been attributed to the incident that were reported to this office.

Officials have been combing properties in the wake of the storm to assess damage. Lancaster County Emergency Services supported by Emergency Management professionals from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Hampton Roads Incident Management Team are in the process of evaluating each structure reported to have sustained damage by the tornado. Information gained from these assessments will be used to determine if thresholds have been met for assistance from programs such as those offered by the Small Business Administration (SBA). In certain circumstances owners of property affected by disasters may be considered eligible for assistance.

Lancaster County officials are asking property owners to report damages to the County if they have not already done so. Additionally, details about the property are being collected to meet the requirements of the application for assistance. Property insurance policy documentation will contain the majority of the data needed, so having relevant paperwork available for reference when communicating with those collecting information is suggested.

The County is providing several options for homeowners to share data needed for the application:

- By telephone at (804) 436-0704, and leaving a message with a request for a call back if no one is available
- In person at the Property Damage Assessment Center located at 61 Harris Road, Kilmarnock, VA 22482 Monday through Friday during the hours of 10:00 am to 4:00 pm beginning Wednesday, August 19 until August 28, 2020
- By email to info@readylancaster.org
- By text message for a call back to (804) 238-5371.

###