

A severe thunderstorm with a confirmed EF1 tornado, high damaging winds and very heavy rains caused white-out conditions on Friday afternoon, June 1, 2012 in the Finksburg 2NW area. This was the same thunderstorm that affected Mt. Airy and Gamber earlier. I came from work in Hunt Valley, MD near Cockeysville to my parent's house between 4:15pm and 5:10pm. Rt. 140 was all backed up from Rt. 91 traffic light in Finksburg SE to I795 due to the light being out at Finksburg. In fact the power was out from Finksburg to about 3 miles to the NW. As I approached my parent's area on the Old Westminster Pike, I noticed some trees and limbs down halfway across the road just before Brown Rd. As I drove back Brown Road, I could see a BGE truck in front of my parents house along with many tree limbs and a telephone line across the road. I saw my mom talking with a neighbor talking on the front porch. My dad, another neighbor and a man with BGE were cleaning limbs off Brown Rd. The road had been blocked with many tree limbs. Other BGE trucks were also in the area.

Around just after 3:30pm my mom said that the light rain that started earlier suddenly became very heavy and then the winds picked up and just kept getting stronger out of the S and SSW. Visibility was suddenly reduced to zero in a white-out of wind and rain. Mom said she could hear the limbs on their large Kentucky Coffee Tree starting to snapp. Mom called to dad to head quickly to the basement. After staying in the basement for a few minutes, the worse seemed to be over. They came back up and looked outside to find many large limbs all over their front yard and blocking Brown Road. Three pine trees and a maple tree snapped in their back yard. Their power went out. As of 5:50pm, 1.42 inches of rain fell so far but moderate to heavy rain was still falling. Their storm total was a little over 2 3/4" rainfall.

Just a quarter mile from my parents house is Spencer Lane. Many trees were damaged and a row of large pine trees snapped like tooth picks. Some of the trees just narrowly missing the houses. One neighbor reported a fire burning where tree limbs pulled down the power lines. A news crews from WBFF FOX TV, Channel 45 from Baltimore filmed the pine tree damage. WJZ Channel 13 and WBAL Channel 11 news were also in the Finksburg area filming damage. Another neighbor had alot of large trees uprooted or snapped in between Spencer Lane and Brown Road along the Old Westminster Pike. Mr. Bogan gave me a tour of the damage and I was able to get alot of photos of the damage there. There was a TV report of an uprooted tree on Deer Park Road SW of my parents. Another report from the Finksburg area reported a large tree down on a house. The house was badly damaged.

Attached are a few photos of the damage. I also have some maps of the damage area NW of Finksburg, Maryland.

My rainfall at Manchester 1SW as of 11pm was 3.07" . Storm total was 3.13 inches. No wind damage at Manchester 1SSW.

Herb Close