



Staff Report

Report Title: EF2 Tornado Event – Sept 7, 2021

Prepared By: Chris Cleave, Fire Chief

Department: Fire & Emergency Services

Date: Sep. 23, 2021

Report Number: LDFB-2021-09-13

File Number: C00-LDFB

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Lucknow and District Fire Board hereby receives for information Report Number LDFB2021-09-13 prepared by Chris Cleave, Fire Chief.

Background:

On Tuesday September 07, 2021, Environment Canada Issued a Severe thunderstorm Warning for the Lake Huron Shores areas.

Shortly After 4 PM the following storm made land fall in the Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh and Huron-Kinloss areas:



Discussion:

Shortly After 4PM the calls for service began to come in for the Fire Departments.

After the Storm had passed through reports of a possible tornado in Point Clark, Kingsbridge and the Lucknow area began to emerge.

As a result, the Fire Chief requested all Firefighters attend their respective stations to begin necessary response operations. Ripley-Huron was already on a call in Point Clark when the storm made land fall.

Shortly after requesting emergency personnel to stage, the Lucknow District and Ripley-Huron Fire Departments began to receive multiple calls for Damaged Structures, Trees Down, Roads Blocked and Hydro Wires Down.

The number of locations that required some level of response on this day stretched our Fire Resources to their capacity. As a result, Public Works Staff from both Townships were called out to assist with road closures, debris removal and assessments.

Fortunately, during this incident all the calls for service where centered around potential public safety hazards. There were no reports of people trapped, injured or fatalities that required an emergency response during this incident.



A Few Days after this incident the Northern Tornado project confirmed that an EF2 Tornado touched down in Lucknow and surrounding areas on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 around 4:30 p.m.

The Northern Tornado Project further reported tornadoes from the same supercell parent storm over Lake Huron, hit the Point Clark and the Lakeshore communities, before moving inland causing significant tree and structural damage in the Kingsbridge area and eastward to south of Lucknow and extending towards Whitechurch.

Preliminary review of data collected confirms at least one tornado damage path, assessed as EF2, with estimated wind speed of 180 km/h. The tornado's track length was 19.0 km and maximum path width of 1.3 km.

All Fire Department and Public Works Departments staff were able to effectively manage the initial and post incident response to this event. Mutual Aid from other municipalities was not required.

Although this event is significant in nature, most of the damage caused was environmental only. Property damage did occur however it was kept to a minimum due to the travel path and rural location of the tornado. Had this tornado made direct contact with one of our populated communities it would have been a very different response.

Financial Impacts:

None

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by having services and amenities nearby.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Chris Cleave, Fire Chief

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer