



Courtesy / National Weather Service

The yellow line shows the path of a tornado that touched down near Forada on May 31 and moved northeast through Nelson and beyond.

PATH

From Page 1

Cities, which includes the Douglas County region:

Tornado 1, 3:36 to 4:23 p.m. The first tornado hit about four miles west of Milan and moved north-northeast 50 miles to northwest of Glenwood, causing damage in four counties – Chipewa, Swift, Stevens and Pope.

The tornado, which had a maximum width of 350 yards, was rated an EF-1 with winds of up to 100 miles per hour.

The National Weather Service said there was a small gap between this tornado and the Forada tornado and more investigation is needed to see if it was a single track.

Tornado 2, 4:25 to 4:48 p.m. The tornado touched down east of Lake Reno near Forada and tracked

north-northeast through Douglas County for 19.8 miles, through Nelson and 5 miles east of Carlos.

The tornado was rated an EF-2, packing winds of up to 120 miles per hour with a maximum width of half a mile when it was on the south side of Maple Lake.

Tornado 3, 5 to 5:11 p.m. The tornado spun up 1 mile southwest of Eagle Bend in Todd County and tracked northeast to 5 miles southwest of Staples.

The tornado was rated an EF-1 with maximum winds of 95 mph. It covered a distance of 15.1 miles and had a maximum width of 300 yards.

Tornado 4, 6:12 to 6:28 p.m. The tornado touched down south of the Glencoe Municipal Airfield and tracked north-northeast 6 miles southwest of Montrose, affecting three counties

– McLeod, Carver and Wright.

It was rated an EF-1 with 90 mph winds. Its path was 18.2 miles long and had a maximum width of 400 yards.

The survey process is ongoing and may take a prolonged period of time before tornado data becomes official.

Tornado classifications

The Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale classifies tornadoes into the following categories:

- EF-0 – weak, 65-85 mph.
- EF-1 – moderate, 86-110 mph.
- EF-2 – significant, 111-135 mph.
- EF-3 – severe, 136-165 mph.
- EF-4 – extreme, 166-200 mph.
- EF-5 – catastrophic, 200+ mph.

Email Editor Al Edenloff at aedenloff@echopress.com

AFTERMATH

From Page 1

In a statement sent after her tour, Fischbach said, “It was truly humbling to see the damage done in Forada. We’ve got every level of government working to help rebuild, from local all the way up to federal, and if my office can be helpful, I encourage anyone to reach out. There is a long road ahead but it was beautiful to see the way the community has come together. The people of Forada are strong and will overcome this disaster.”

Cindy Frederick, along with her husband, Adam, live along Forada Beach

Road, one of the hardest hit areas. She said they were fortunate that they can still live in their house while so many cannot. Frederick contacted Fischbach’s office asking for the congresswoman to come and see for herself the damage that was done and was thankful that Fischbach and the other legislators saw for themselves the destruction.

One of Frederick’s many concerns is Maple Lake and who will be cleaning it up.

“How do we take care of the lake?” she said, noting that there is so much debris along the lakeshore, as well as in the lake.

Kalina said the county is looking into contracting with a company that has barges that can come in and help clean up the lake. The cost, he said, is close to \$35,000. Once something is put in place or a solution has been determined, Forada city officials will be notified along with residents.

For now, officials are asking that people use caution and that it would be best to stay out of the water.

Frederick’s parents, Gary and Shirley Kluever, who live down the road from their daughter, had severe damage to their home and property. They, along with several other residents, had the opportunity to talk



Celeste Edenloff / Alexandria Echo Press

Forada resident Cindy Frederick, front left, speaks with U.S. Rep. Michelle Fischbach, congresswoman from the 7th Congressional district in Minnesota, before touring the Forada area where an EF-2 tornado ripped through on May 30. Behind the two women are Mark McCabe, Douglas County Emergency Management deputy director, left, and Forada Mayor David Reller.

with the legislators on the tour.

Fischbach and Fran-son also toured what was left of a home located right next to the Forada Beach public access. The homeowners, according to the Douglas County parcel online map, are Michael Grove and Mary Timmer. They were home and in their basement, along with residents of the Sunset Beach Resort Association, which is directly behind their home.

A very large tree fell on the couple’s home, destroying it, but fortunately, no one was injured.

Mayor Reller said the

city council is planning a meeting for next week to figure out next steps. The American Red Cross has been helping people and there are volunteers set up at the Forada Fire Hall for people to check in and ask questions.

More information about what help and other resources there might be will be determined in the coming weeks.

Fischbach said it’s not going to happen overnight; there is a process and that there are people at the state level trying to figure things out.

“We are with you, but we understand it’s hard,” she said.

Email reporter Celeste Edenloff at cedenloff@echopress.com.

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