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Tornado Causes Damage

A class EF1 tornado touched down in El Dorado Hills just off of Folsom lake causing damage as it carved a path up to Cameron Park.

By: Matt Kramer

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A class EF1 tornado touched down in the southern part of Folsom Lake on Thursday, December 24 around 3:00 p.m. The tornado then moved into El Dorado Hills around 3:10 p.m. and from there blew on into Cameron Park between 3:20 and 3:30 p.m. according to the National Weather Service in Sacramento. The tornado remained on the ground for about 20 minutes causing destruction and property damage.

"There was a fair amount of damage," said Craig Shoemaker, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. "There was some moderate damage to a business in El Dorado Hills, moderate damage to the roof of a business close to Green Valley Road, and some damage to house roofs east of Green Valley Road."

According to Shoemaker the tornado also caused damage to trees between Green Valley Road and Bass Lake Road as it made its way to Cameron Park. The tornado was on the ground for approximately six and a half miles.

Hayley Kvanaugh, of Cameron Park, received an emergency alert on her cell phone about the tornado.

"It was the crazy," she said. I'm a fourth-generation Californian and am used to earthquakes, but had no idea what to do for a tornado."

She said she simply waited for the dark cloud to pass over her Cameron Park home.

"I did step outside in time to see a big black cloud move over the house."

A few homes in Cameron Park received some damage to the exterior with downed fences, trees and toppled patio covers.

EF1 tornadoes consist of 80 to 90 mph winds and are uncommon in the area.

"It is rare, but it's not unprecedented," said Shoemaker. "Over the last 50 years we've had a couple in this area."