

Downed trees damage homes in Gilmanton 08/04/2018

GILMANTON, N.H. — WMUR

Some homes were damaged in Gilmanton Friday when storms knocked over trees and power lines in the area near Sawyer Lake.

Neighbors told WMUR heavy winds, intense rain, and hail started falling around 4:30 p.m.

"It came through like a freight train," said resident Dustin Milliken. "We looked outside and the next thing you know trees were toppling over. You couldn't even see out the windows."

After the storm moved on, Milliken said he started driving around the neighborhood and saw trees on houses.

Despite the damage, Local police told WMUR there were no reports of injuries.

Power was out in the area and roads were closed. Multiple Eversource and local tree removal crews were working to clean up and repair damage Friday evening.

GILMANTON, N.H. — WMUR 08/05/2018

The National Weather Service confirmed Saturday that a microburst hit the area of Sawyer Lake in Gilmanton Friday after meteorologists surveyed the damage.

Brenda Viglienzoni said she's been through California earthquakes but says Friday evening was the scariest event she's experienced.

"I've never experienced anything like this before," she said.

Viglienzoni was putting away her lawn furniture as the storm approached when things took a drastic turn.

"There was a wall of water that just came. It sounded like a freight train. The hail was the size of ice cubes. By the time I got in the house and slammed the windows shut, the power went out," she said.

The National Weather Service confirmed the damage is the result of a powerful microburst.

Meteorologists from the department surveyed the area around Sawyer Lake Saturday afternoon.

Officials said the microburst carried winds of up to 80 mph.

The force toppled trees on to homes and roads.

"When I came in last night, we couldn't even get in. We had to park at the end of the road and walk all the way in," said resident Chris Kotsakis.

He said he couldn't believe what he was seeing.

"There was no power, power lines were everywhere, trees down everywhere. If you look over here, this gentleman's house, he's got two massive maple trees uprooted," Kotsakis said.

"I was over helping two of my friends all morning trying to get their houses back together. It's pretty sad for them right now. They got a lot of stuff going on," Kotsakis said.

NWS said it will release a full report about what happened on Monday.

NWS: Microburst hit 1,100-yard-long area in Gilmanton 08/06/2018

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The microburst that hit Gilmanton last week had a top maximum wind speed of [80 mph](#), according to the National Weather Service.

The storm hit the Sawyer Lake area at about 4:40 p.m. Friday, delivering the straight-line winds over a path up to 500 yards wide and 1,100 yards long.

No one was hurt, but the strong storm left behind significant damage, knocking out power and toppling trees onto homes and roads.

The weather service observed most of the damage along Woods Road on the west side of the lake and along Hemlock Drive along the east side of the lake.

Nickel-sized hail pelted the area, neighbors said.