



Emergency Response to April 16, 2011 Tornado in Middlesex and Gloucester Counties

April 20, 2011

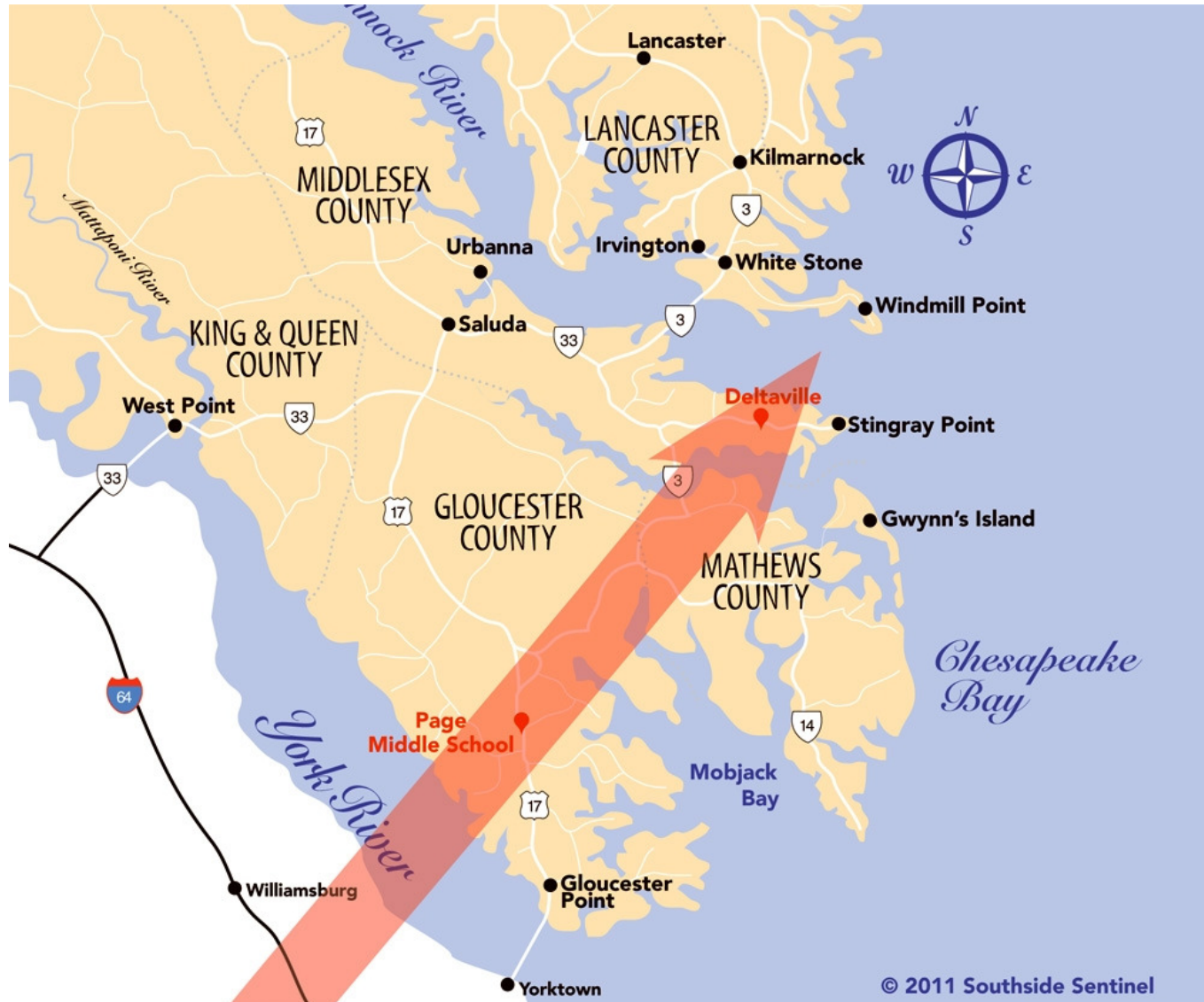
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Middlesex and Gloucester

Severe Weather Struck the Following Areas between 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 16:

- **Ware Neck in Gloucester (EF3 Tornado, on enhanced Fujita scale, with estimated winds of 136-165 mph)**
- **Coke in Gloucester (EF3 Tornado)**
- **Deltaville in Middlesex (EF2 Tornado, winds of 111-135 mph)**



Aftermath



**The sanctuary of Zoar Baptist Church in Deltaville
(Middlesex)**



A destroyed home on Deagles Road in Deltaville



Along Route 33 in Deltaville, including Deltaville Community Center⁶



Trees, debris along Route 33 in Deltaville



Route 33 in Deltaville (WTKR-3 Photo)



In the Coke area of Gloucester, a home on Hickory Fork Road (Route 614)



Hickory Fork Road in Gloucester



Hickory Fork Road in Gloucester



Page Middle School in Gloucester

VDOT Response

Saturday Evening

- **VDOT's Traffic Operations Center notified Saluda Residency Maintenance Manager about debris and blocked lanes on U.S. 17 near Page Middle School, possible tornado touchdown**
 - **Saluda Residency mobilized all available equipment and employees**
 - **Coordinated with area emergency responders to make all roads passable for search and rescue operations**
 - **Overnight, arranged for work crews and equipment to report to work locations at sunrise Sunday morning**

Sunday

- **Debris removal started at sunrise on Sunday, and remains underway until all travel lanes and right-of-way is clear**

Affected Roads

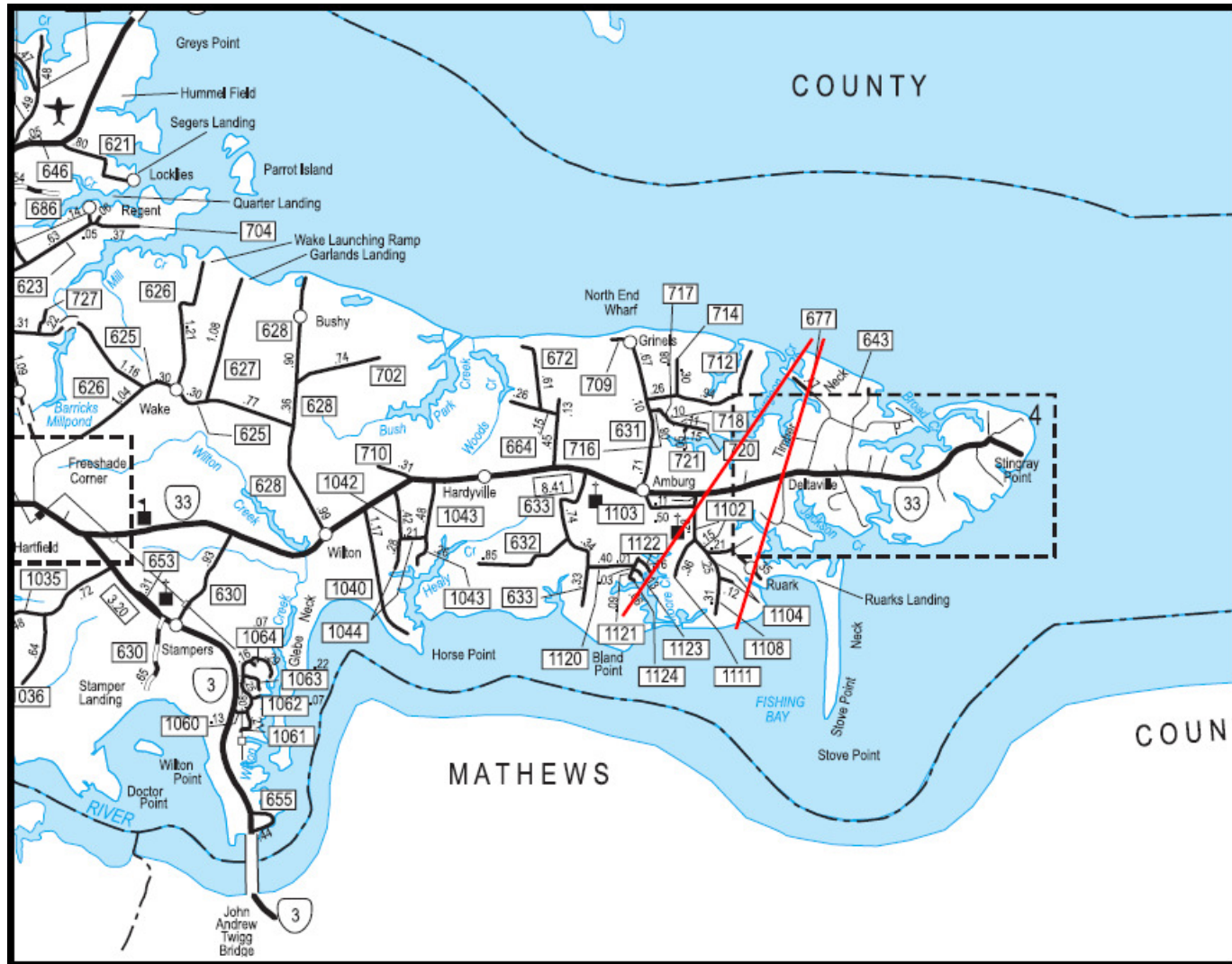
Middlesex

- Route 33
- Fishing Bay Road and surrounding area

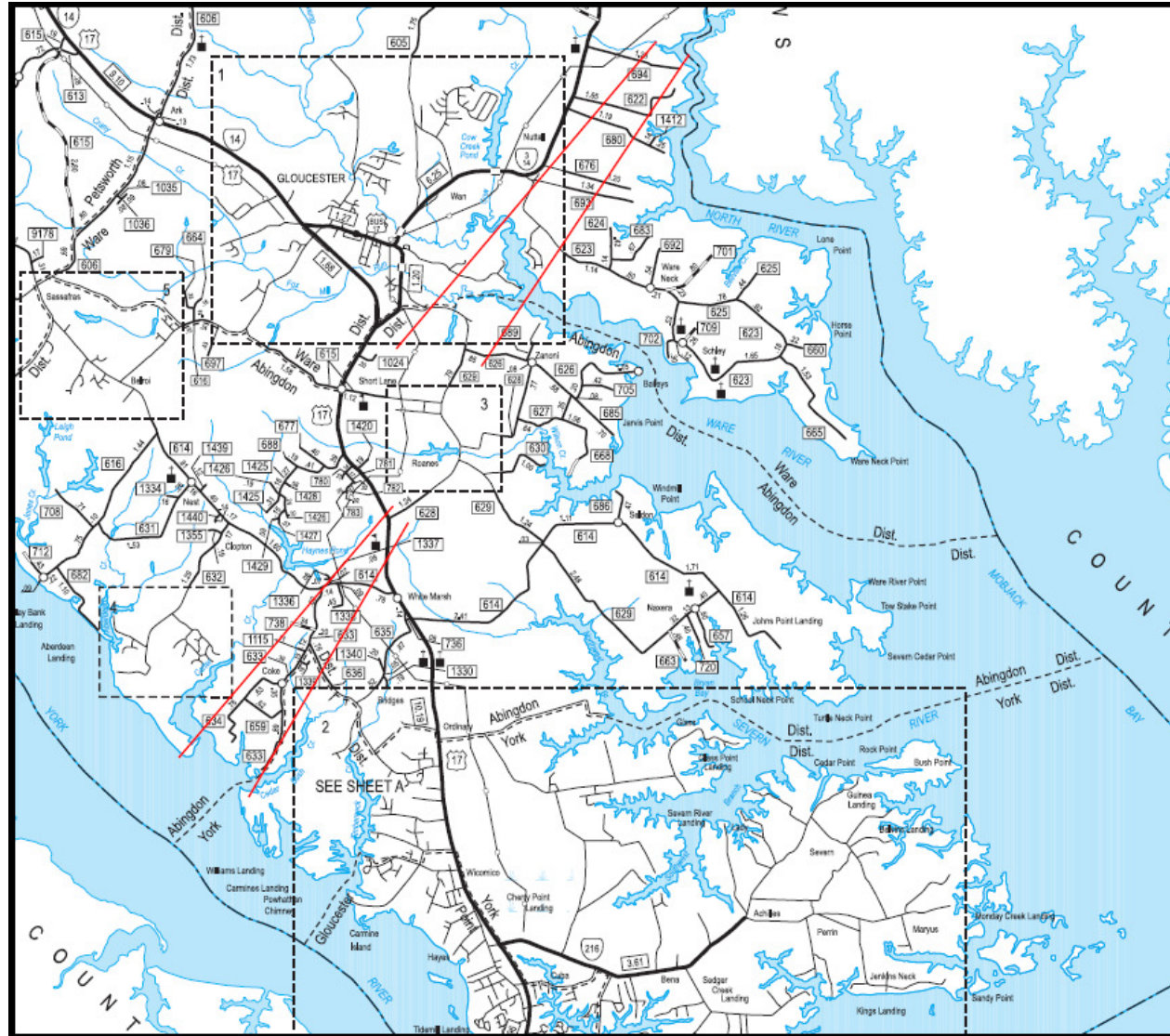
Gloucester

- U.S. 17
- Hickory Fork Road
- Cedar Bush Road
- Several Ware Neck area roads





Middlesex County



Gloucester County

Equipment and Personnel for Response

Pieces of State Equipment and State Personnel*

- 10 Excavators
- 2 Loaders
- 58 Dump Trucks
- 14 Pickups
- 112 VDOT Employees

*Drawn from 16 of 18 Fredericksburg District Area Headquarters

Pieces of Contractor-Owned Equipment and Contractor Personnel*

- 8 Excavators
- 2 Loaders
- 11 Dump Trucks
- 1 Tub Grinder
- 39 Contract Employees

*Drawn from 7 Contractors

Challenges in Response

Narrow Tornado Path

- Multiple responders worked in tight spaces on two-lane secondary roads covered with trees, debris and downed power lines
- VDOT cannot remove trees or debris until power lines are removed or de-energized
- Virginia State Police provided traffic control to limit interference from the public “touring” the damage
- Oversize work vehicles and equipment from multiple agencies had to take turns maneuvering in confined spaces



Debris Removal on Cedar Bush Road in Gloucester



**Fishing Bay Road in
Deltaville**



Route 33 in Deltaville



Debris Removal in Ware Neck Area of Gloucester



Grapplers removed large amounts of debris, but chainsaws were still needed.

Above, David Clements of VDOT's Gloucester Area Headquarters cuts down a tree on Cedar Bush Road



VDOT Debris Disposal Facility on Aberdeen Creek Road in Gloucester

Initial Damage and Debris Assessments

Assessment for VDOT Expenses

- Gloucester: \$252,000
- Middlesex: \$80,000

Estimates for VDOT Collected Debris

- Gloucester: 5,200 cubic yards
- Middlesex: 1,600 cubic yards



Insulation stuck in trees near destroyed home in Middlesex

Status of Cleanup

Forward Plan

- Middlesex County is 100 percent complete
- Remaining crews have deployed to Gloucester County, which is 70 percent complete. Estimated completion by Friday.
- Traffic signal timing at U.S. 17 and Ark Road to be coordinated for new arrival and dismissal times at Peasley Middle School.



Thank You

- VDOT Saluda Residency and Fredericksburg District Employees
- VDOT Commissioner Gregory Whirley and VDOT Deputy Commissioner Charlie Kilpatrick
- VDOT Central Region TOC and Signal Crew
- Virginia State Police, Virginia Marine Resources Commission and area law enforcement officials
- Al Covey, who provided many of the VDOT photos in today's presentation

