

Witnesses report possible funnel cloud in Cedartown

by Lowell Vickers

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A violent storm that swept through Cedartown around 8:40 a.m. Wednesday morning almost became a tornado, according to witnesses.

A partial funnel cloud was spotted on Cason Road, and is blamed for the downing of three trees at 149 Cason Road. One of the trees fell across the house, penetrating the roof and knocking holes through the ceiling of three rooms, owner Wanda Haney confirmed.



“It got completely dark outside,” Haney said. “I was in the kitchen going through the mail and I heard a lot of loud wind, and then a loud noise like something hitting the house. I turned and saw the living room was full of insulation.”

Her insurance agent, Chris Beeler, Beeler Insurance in Cedartown, was on the scene by 9 a.m.. Beeler pointed to the positions of the trees as evidence of a “swirling type of wind.” Two trees fell in a westward direction in the yard, while another tree fell northward on top of the house.



Haney’s home is across the street from Cedar Spring Health and Rehab, a nursing home. There, receptionist Ashley Green looked out the window from the office and witnessed a brief funnel cloud in front of Haney’s house.

“I still get chills when I think about it,” Green said. “It came down halfway and didn’t touch the ground. It was visible for about five seconds.”

Green said the funnel was “wide” and not



perfectly round like in the movies. It was very dark at top, getting lighter closer to the ground, and had a visible rotational movement before it pulled back up and disappeared, she said.

Beeler, who also is Haney's son-in-law, said Haney was fortunate to escape injury. A limb of the tree that fell on her roof penetrated into the living room, coming to rest only a few feet from where Haney would have been sitting in her recliner.



"It's a blessing that she happened to be sitting at her kitchen table instead," he said.

Georgia Power Co. crews were on the scene repairing downed power lines for more than an hour after the storm had passed. The nursing home and several homes in the area were among dozens of Cedartown residents who were without power for a few hours.

The power meter was disconnected at Haney's home and Atlanta Gas Light Co.

turned off the natural gas supply until repairs can be made.

We invite the public to email photos of the storms to the Cedartown Standard and Rockmart Journal by attaching them as a jpeg and sending them to Jake Carter jcarter@npco.com, or Lowell Vickers lvickers@npco.com