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25 August 2023

Confirmation of EF-0 Landspout over Hanover Park on 25 August 2023

The South African Weather Service can confirm that an EF-0 landspout occurred over Hanover Park, City of Cape Town, on the 25 August 2023 just after 07:00 SAST.

A well-developed cold front made landfall over the south-western parts of the Western Cape on Friday morning, 25 August 2023. This was the third cold front of a series of cold fronts that affected the Western Cape from the past weekend, which was dominated by cold, windy, and wet weather conditions. Hanover Park is situated in the Cape Flats, roughly 6,5 km south-west of the Cape Town International Airport (City of Cape Town District Municipality) in the Western Cape. After 07:00 SAST, a resident recalled seeing “a black twister like wind”. The main damage observed included roof tiles being blown off from an apartment building as seen in figure 1.



Figure 1: The damage due to the EF-0 landspout that hit Hanover Park on Friday morning, 25 August 2023.

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The South African Weather Service (SAWS) conducted an analysis of the weather conditions on the day of the event and considering all available information, it was determined that the wind phenomenon that hit Hanover Park was a landspout. Like a tornado, a landspout also rotates, is usually fast-moving and can be damaging. However, landspouts are much weaker and smaller in scale and form from the ground up, rather than from a cloud to the ground.

After evaluating the meteorological conditions and the damage that was caused by the Hanover Park landspout, it was determined that it was an EF-0 landspout. This is particularly related to the blown off roof tiles. The EF-rating refers to the strength (estimated wind speed) of the wind phenomenon by considering the damage severity to structures and trees.

The SAWS would like to express their gratitude to the City of Cape Town Disaster Management centre, which assisted with photos and videos and provided valuable information. Any additional photos or videos of this event from members of the public will be helpful and vital for future research. This information can be shared with the Cape Town Weather Office via email factfc@weathersa.co.za or via WhatsApp (084 279 1166).

The SAWS is aware of other wind-related damage over the Cape Farms and further investigations will be conducted.

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