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### **Confirmation of EF-1 Landspout over Koperfontein on 4 June 2023**

*The South African Weather Service can confirm that an EF-1 landspout occurred over Koperfontein, near Hopefield, on the 4 June 2023 at 16:30 SAST.*

An intense cold front made landfall over the south-western parts of the Western Cape late on Sunday afternoon, 4 June 2023. This was the second cold front that affected the Cape regions over the weekend, which was dominated by cold, windy and wet weather conditions. Koperfontein is located 10 km south-east of Hopefield (Saldanha Bay Local Municipality) in the Western Cape. At 16:30 SAST, a sudden and damaging wind phenomenon uprooted mature trees, damaged a couple of roofs and even tore off a piece of roof of one of the houses at Koperfontein. This phenomenon lasted about 5 minutes and was accompanied by a heavy and quick downpour that lasted about 30 minutes.

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 Koperfontein 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 a thorough evaluation of the damage that was caused by the Koperfontein landspout, it was determined that it was an EF-1 landspout. This is particularly related to the blown off roof and the 20-year-old olive trees that were uprooted and tree branches snapped as seen in figure 1. The EF scale considers the severity of the damage caused to structures and trees to estimate the wind speed of the landspout and therefore the associated EF-rating.

The SAWS would like to express their gratitude to the residents of Koperfontein as well as the Saldanha Bay Municipality Disaster Management centre, which assisted with photos and videos, provided valuable information, sharing the experience and allowed the SAWS to conduct the assessment. 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](mailto:factfc@weathersa.co.za) or via WhatsApp (084 279 1166).

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**Figure 1:** Evidence of the damage caused by the landspout. The top photos are of a roof that was blown off and the bottom photos of 20-year-old Olive trees that were uprooted, and branches snapped.

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