

2 December 2019

### Damage from a microburst in Eastern Cape: 29 November 2019

On Friday evening, 29 November 2019, thunderstorms moved over the interior of the Eastern Cape between 14:00 and 15:00 SAST. They resulted in strong winds which caused destruction in several villages near Alice and Fort Beaufort. Residents of the affected region said that there was a short period of strong winds (about 20 minutes) which did result in dust storms and damage to certain structures. Although several media reports have made mention to a tornado occurrence, the South African Weather Service can confirm that it was not a tornado, but rather a microburst from the storm that resulted in these short lived adverse conditions. The images below show damage to structures where the microburst occurred.



Image 1: Structural damage from the microburst (Source: Garth Sampson)

A microburst is an intense small-scale downdraft produced by a thunderstorm that can result in very strong winds. Microbursts can cause extensive damage at the surface, and in some instances, can be life-threatening.

**Certified for  
Excellence**

**Board Members:** Ms Nana Magomola (Chairperson), Adv Derick Block, Dr Phillip Dexter (Deputy Chairperson), Mr David Lefutso, Dr Jonas Mphepya (Acting CEO), Dr Mphekgo Maila, Ms Kelebogile Moroka-Mosia, Ms Sally Mudly-Padayachie, Dr Tsakani Ngomane (DEA Rep), Mr Itani Phaduli, Ms Feziwe Renqe.  
**Company Secretary:** Ms Thandi Zide

The South African Weather Service continues to monitor the weather and further developments and will issue subsequent updates as required. Furthermore, the public are urged and encouraged to regularly follow weather forecasts on television and radio. Updated information in this regard will regularly be available at [www.weathersa.co.za](http://www.weathersa.co.za) as well as via the SA Weather Service Twitter account @SAWeatherServic

Compiled by: Mbavhi Maliage

Edited by: Jacqueline Modika

For technical and weather enquiries:

National Forecasting Centre; Tel: 012 367 6041

Media enquiries: Ms Hannelee Doubell: Manager, Communications; Tel: (012) 367 6104; Cell: 072 222 6305; E-mail: [hannelee.doubell@weathersa.co.za](mailto:hannelee.doubell@weathersa.co.za)