

## = 1904 Chappaqua tornado =

The 1904 Chappaqua tornado was an intense tornado that struck northern Westchester County , New York during the afternoon of July 16 , 1904 . As of 2009 , this tornado ranks as the strongest tornado to touch down in the county , ranking as F3 on the modern @-@ day Fujita Scale . The tornado formed around 3 : 30 pm EST within a severe thunderstorm near Chappaqua , New York . The tornado quickly began to produce damage in the hamlet , destroying several structures and killing two people . Homes were knocked off their foundations and rolled over along the tornado 's path . By 4 : 00 pm EST , the tornado dissipated and left \$ 100 @,@ 000 ( 1904 USD ; \$ 2 @.@ 4 million 2009 USD ) worth of damage in its wake . Hail associated with the same storm cell also inflicted damage upon a few structures . The tornado is known as the worst disaster in the history of Chappaqua .

## = = Synopsis = =

During the afternoon of July 16 , 1904 , a severe thunderstorm produced a strong tornado that touched down around 3 : 30 pm EST in Chappaqua , New York . Residents reported the first indication of the thunderstorm was a large black cloud approaching the region . The sky was reportedly completely dark as torrential rain and high winds commenced . Intense lightning and loud thunder prompted people to seek shelter in their cellars . The tornado tracked directly through Chappaqua before moving towards the Hudson River . Upon reaching the river , the tornado became a waterspout that was powerful enough to uncover the river bed below it . The waterspout eventually dissipated by 4 : 00 pm EST . The tornado was later rated as F3 on the modern @-@ day Fujita scale .

## = = Impact = =

At the time of the tornado , roughly 1 @,@ 000 people lived in the hamlet of Chappaqua . Five homes and three barns were destroyed by the tornado and two people , 80 @-@ year @-@ old Mrs. Mary Hibbs and an unknown woman , were killed ; six additional people were injured . Orchards in the path of the tornado were completely destroyed and greenhouses were leveled . The severity of lightning during the storm caused many women to faint according to The New York Times .

The five homes destroyed were wood @-@ frame , two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ story buildings , one of which was lifted off its foundation and flipped over before falling to the ground , being demolished on impact . One of the home 's occupants was killed after the chimney fell on her . Another person died from shock after seeing her home destroyed . The other four homes were all located within 0 @.@ 5 miles ( 0 @.@ 80 km ) of each other . One of the destroyed homes belonged to Walter Snarles ; he saw the tornado approaching his home and saved his life by jumping out a window before the home was rolled over by the tornado . Another home belonged to Mrs. Hester Cox ; she sustained minor bruises after her home was also rolled over . Nearby , the home of Mr. Marrow was also destroyed ; at the time of the tornado , he , his daughter and his niece were inside . The home was turned over on its side ; debris injured the two girls , knocking the niece unconscious .

A barn belonging to Charles Dodge was destroyed , while the Kensico Cemetery sustained significant hail damage . All the glass on one of the conservatories was shattered . Within hours after the tornado , nearby firefighters rushed to the hamlet to assist victims of the storm . During the nighttime hours , they patrolled the streets and watched over destroyed homes to prevent looters from stealing any valuable items left in the debris . Property damage from the tornado was estimated at \$ 100 @,@ 000 ( 1904 USD ) and five families were left homeless . Following an assessment of the damage , debris from destroyed homes was found upwards of 3 miles ( 4 @.@ 8 km ) from Chappaqua , including a marriage certificate . A calf was picked up and tossed roughly 0 @.@ 25 miles ( 0 @.@ 40 km ) before landing in an open field unharmed . Two plants were also thrown

roughly 2 miles ( 3 @. @ 2 km ) by the tornado .