

Microburst at the Zoo: *One of Nature's most dangerous wind storms*

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What is a Microburst?

A microburst is a localized column of sinking air (downdraft) within a thunderstorm and is usually less than or equal to 2.5 miles in diameter. Microbursts can cause extensive damage at the surface, and in some instances can be life-threatening.

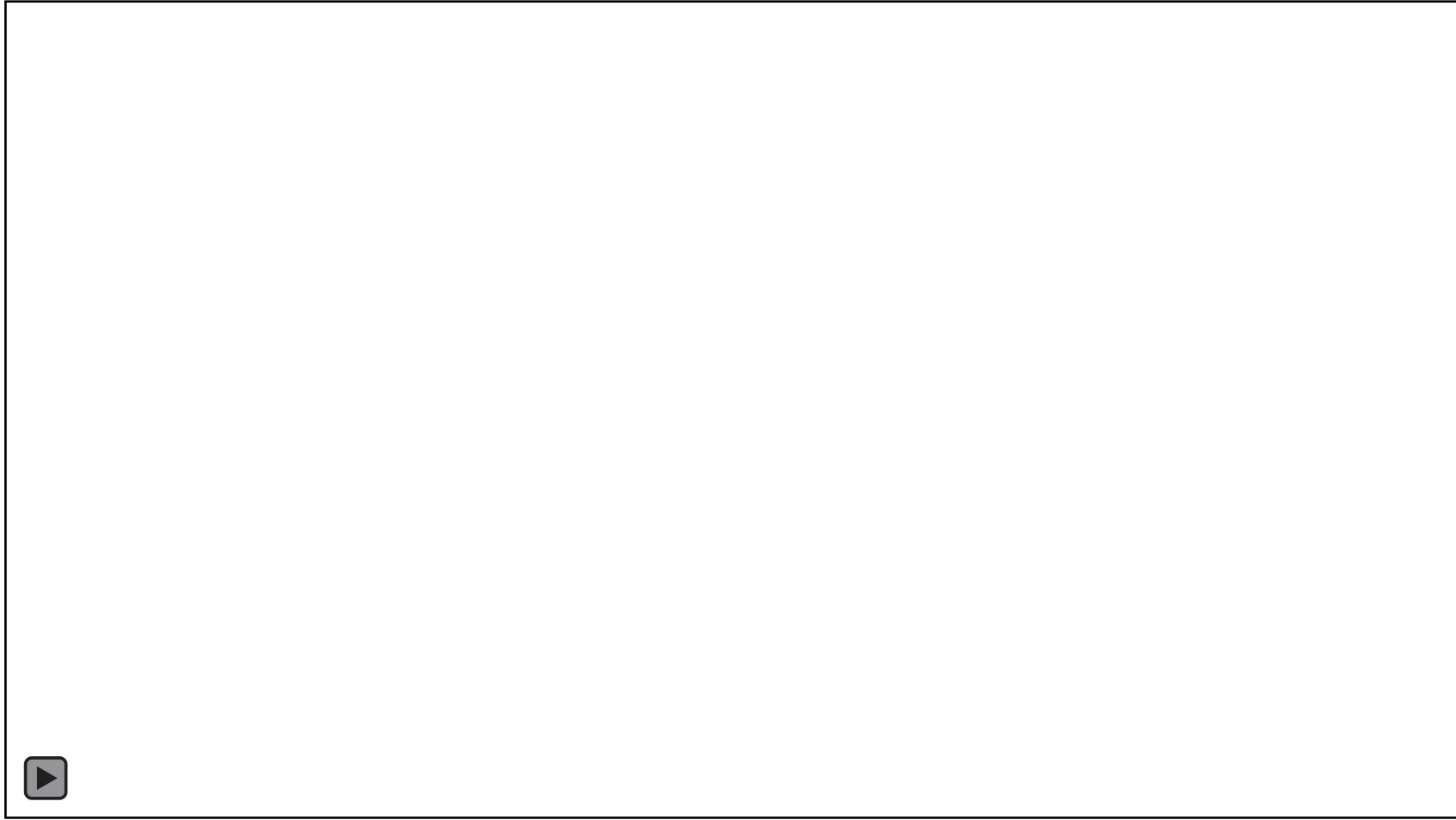


Day of Storm – August 6, 2015

- Weather forecast: Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 90's – 60% chance of rain
- All animals on habitat and entertainment venues open
- Visitor count at 3pm: 1,360 guests
- Radio call at 3:18pm
 - Warning of strong thunderstorms in Randolph and surrounding counties, winds gusts up to **50 MPH**

Day of Storm – August 6, 2015

- Between 3:30-3:45 storm hit – lasting almost 30 minutes
 - Extremely heavy rain
 - Strong winds
 - Large hail
 - Multiple trees down
 - Power out Zoo wide
 - Guests still in park
 - Animals still on habitat



The First 20 Minutes

- Employees taking cover in metal buildings
- Habitats being compromised
- Animals unaccounted for
- Estimated 220 guests still on park – although in sheltered areas
- Trees down around park & in habitats
- Power outage – not able to open habitat doors



North America







2015/08/07





2015



Africa











2015/0



















