High Winds, Tides Rake Area

Hurricane Donna rippled through Beaufort county in the pre-dawn hours this morning leaving what appears to be a tremendous amount of damage.

Trees were uprooted, power lines blown down, roofs were lifted from buildings, plans were demolished, water gushed into many of the riverfront homes and farmers appear to have suffered a staggering loss in corn and soybean crops.

Heavy rains began to soak the county early yesterday as Donna weaved up the coast, and a report of one inch of rain pounded the county in a three-hour period last night shortly before the hurricane struck.

At 10:30 p.m. gusty winds began tearing in from the East, and for the next three hours the forward part of Donna pounded the county.

The center of the hurricane appeared to have passed over the county at about 1:30 a.m. and the backside of Donna struck at 2:00 a.m.

The county was taking a solid battering at 3:00 a.m., when the lights first began to flicker, and at 4:00 a.m. winds exceeding 60 miles per hour were uprooting trees, tearing down power lines, ripping off roofs and generally laying county property to waste.

Lines at the power plant were beginning to make contact at about 3:00 a.m., resulting in short circuits that caused huge flashes of fire that appeared to city residents to be lightning in the sky.

At 4:30 a.m. city power was cut off to save lines and cut down the hazard, and as a result of this lower part of the county will have power tomorrow.

As the Pamlico gushed over its banks to wreck River Shore property, a late report shows that at least five summer homes at River Acres were all but demolished. The streets were awash in the city waters when the river crested the dam, but at noon the water was receding at a noticeable pace, and all streets appeared to be safe.

Meanwhile the schools in the county are closed, and there is little hope that the schools in the lower part of the county will have power tomorrow.

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