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## Event Record Details


Event: Tropical Storm  
Begin Date: 18 Sep 2003, 09:00:00 AM EST  
Begin Location: Not Known  
End Date: 19 Sep 2003, 04:00:00 AM EST  
End Location: Not Known  
Magnitude: 0  
Fatalities: 3  
Injuries: 0  
Property \$ 45.1M  
Damage:  
Crop Damage: \$ 7.1M

State: Virginia  
[Map of Counties](#)  
Forecast affected: Amelia, Brunswick,  
Zones Caroline,  
Chesterfield /  
Colonial Height,  
Cumberland,  
Dinwiddie /  
Petersburg,  
Fluvanna,  
Goochland, Hanover,  
Henrico / Richmond,  
King And Queen,  
King William,  
Louisa, Lunenburg,  
Mecklenburg,  
Nottoway, Powhatan,  
Prince Edward

### Description:

Tropical Storm Isabel produced tropical storm force sustained winds and wind gusts over the piedmont of central and south central Virginia, as it crossed the Wakefield WFO county warning area. Isabel made landfall near Ocracoke Inlet in North Carolina, tracked northwest into central Virginia just west of Richmond, then continued northward into western Pennsylvania. The highest sustained wind speed recorded was 38 mph at Richmond International Airport. The highest gusts recorded were 73 mph at Richmond International Airport, 63 mph at WWBT-TV, and 53 mph at Chase City in Mecklenburg county. Approximately several thousand persons were evacuated and housed in numerous shelters across the piedmont of central and south central Virginia. The unusually large wind field uprooted many thousands of trees, downed many power lines, damaged hundreds of houses, and snapped thousands of telephone poles and cross arms. Hundreds of roads, including major highways, were blocked by fallen trees. Over 2 million customers of Dominion Virginia Power were without electricity. Local electrical cooperatives also reported thousands of customers were without power. The lowest sea level pressure recorded was 987 mb at Portsmouth Virginia. Isabel will be remembered for the greatest wind and storm surge in the region since Hazel in 1954, and the 1933 Chesapeake-Potomac Hurricane. Also, Isabel will be remembered for the most extensive power outages ever in Virginia, and permanent change to the landscape from all the fallen trees and storm surge. Rainfall amounts ranged from 4 to 7 inches across the piedmont of central and south central Virginia. Inland flooding due to heavy rainfall occurred over parts of the piedmont of central and south central Virginia. High water was reported around Swift Creek in Colonial Heights around Pinehurst Drive. Some areas in Chesterfield county, such as Beach road also had high water. Eight deaths can be directly attributed to Isabel in the Wakefield area of responsibility, with 7 in Virginia. There were more than 15 deaths indirectly attributed to the storm. M27OU, M54IW, F45PH

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