

At least 9 killed in Alabama, Georgia after tornado outbreak destroys buildings, tosses cars

Parts of the southeastern U.S. were reeling Friday after extreme weather and tornadoes tore a swath of destruction across the region Thursday night, killing at least nine people in Alabama and Georgia.

The National Weather Service issued dozens of tornado watches and warnings across several states including Alabama and Georgia, which received the brunt of the severe storms. At least 35 possible tornado touchdowns were reported across the Southeast, Federal Emergency Management Agency officials said.

An EF2 - defined as a tornado with winds between 113 and 157 mph - was confirmed in Winston County, Alabama, weather service forecasters in Birmingham said Friday as storm surveys continued.

At least seven people died in central Alabama, where the weather service reported a "large and extremely dangerous tornado" Thursday that slammed into Selma and nearby areas, reducing homes and businesses to battered and shredded piles of debris.

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