

Winds knock out windows, trees and power lines

By ELIZABETH MOORE

Winds reaching up to 53 miles per hour gusted across New Jersey for the second day in a row, knocking down trees and power lines and blowing out windows in a high-rise apartment complex in Newark.

Christopher Jones, the president of the tenants association of the Colonnade Apartments at 25 Clifton Ave. in Newark, said a family of four was



Photo by Amanda Brown

Anthony Ohai comforts his daughter after she was injured by flying glass at the Colonnade Apartments.

watching television in their living room at about 1:30 p.m. when a gust of wind tore out their picture window.

"It just blew out; it made a big crashing noise like a boom," he said.

Around 3 p.m., windows in the lobby of the building blew out and a chandelier fell. A 7-year-old girl was injured by flying glass and was taken by ambulance to University Hospital, where the nursing supervisor said her condition was stable.

Other wind-related accidents were reported in several communities.

About 3 p.m., high winds knocked a massive tree onto the front of Martha Walmsley's home on Fairmount Avenue in North Arlington. Walmsley was in the basement at the time and was not injured.

"I heard a crash, but I thought it was branches. When I looked out, I couldn't believe it," she said. "I just had the house painted and all new windows put in."

The winds blew part of a roof from a New Jersey Institute of Technology fraternity house on Martin Luther King Boulevard in Newark. No one was injured but a fire department dispatcher said the building would have to be inspected for possible demolition.

A man in Newark was hit by a sign that blew off a building at Hawthorne Avenue and Demarest Street. Police had no further details.

The winds, causing property damage and power problems from the Jersey Shore through Hudson and Bergen counties, were expected to be calmer today and subside by tomorrow.

Kevin Connolly, a meteorological technician in the National Weather Service office in Newark, said the gusts were caused by a polar air mass from Canada colliding with an air mass from the Carolinas.

"It can only last so long," he said. Connolly said the forecast showed winds dying down to 10 to 15 miles per

hour today and the high temperature reaching between 55 and 60 degrees. Tomorrow was expected to be in the upper 50s and sunny, with clouds and rain expected overnight into Wednesday. Cooler temperatures are expected by Thursday, he said, when the high is supposed to drop to between 35 and 40 degrees.

Residents from Neptune to Cliffside Park felt the effects of the winds, which left scattered power outages throughout the state.

Amy Foley, a spokeswoman for Public Service Electric & Gas, said approximately 11,000 customers throughout the state experienced power problems throughout the day.

The majority of the outages occurred in Bergen and Hudson counties, she said.

"We have a lot of trees falling on lines, especially in Bergen County, where it is heavily wooded," she said.

Foley also reported 3,000 people in Hillsdale were left without power for an hour and a large section of Bayonne was blacked out. She estimated 1,000 people were without power part of yesterday afternoon in Fair Lawn, Saddle Brook, Wayne and Montclair, and about 140 persons were temporarily without power in Burlington and Mt. Laurel.

"It's all related to the wind and trees falling on lines," she said.

Lucille Andaloro, a spokeswoman for Jersey Central Power & Light Co., said 12,000 customers were without power in eight New Jersey counties. One community that was especially hard hit was Boonton, she said.

Sgt. Robert Abrahamson of the Bergen County Police said Route 9W was partially closed in Closter, trees were reported on roads in Englewood and a tree had fallen near a bridge in Rutherford.

Lt. Dominic Maturo of Cliffside Park said several calls came in about 11 a.m. reporting power problems, and the fire department had worked throughout the afternoon clearing trees from roads.

"We had some trees down and some signs down," he said.

Officer Joseph Denicola of the



A tree is down, the victim of high winds, at 12 Fairmount Ave. in North Arlington, the home of Martha Walmsley.



Photo by Ed Curry

JCP&L worker John Contos works to restore power in Neptune.

Montclair Police Department said about 10 trees had fallen in his community and two to three cars were damaged by trees.

Mitchell Seidel and the Associated Press contributed to this report.