A Cool Season EML Event





NEXRAD LEVEL-II KBOX - BOSTON, MA 02/19/2011 03:00:34 GMT LAT: 41/57/21 N LON: 71/08/13 W ELEV: 118 FT VCP: 12

REFLECTIVITY ELEV ANGLE: 0.47

Legend: dBZ (Category)



Lightning strikes 2 Jet Blue flights; 1 out of Tampa



Last Updated: Friday, February 18, 2011

BOSTON, Mass. -- Passengers aboard two Jet Blue planes had a rough ride Friday night.

Lightning struck both planes as they flew above the Northeast. One aircraft was headed to Boston's Logan Airport from Tampa International Airport when the bolt hit around 9:30 p.m. Friday.

There were 82 people aboard Flight #446. No injuries were reported and the plane landed safely in Boston.

STORM REPORTS -

- Numerous reports of dime to nickel size hail
- Several reports of down trees
- Wind gusts to 60 mph at MQE

AFD – was convection expected?

348 AM FRI FEB 18 -

AS FOR PRECIP...OTHER THAN A FEW SPRINKLES THIS MORNING EXPECTING A DRY DAY AS DEEP WESTERLY FLOW PRECEDING COLD FRONT WILL LIMIT DEEP LAYER CONVERGENCE.

10 AM and 4 PM AFD – no convection or precipitation expected.

🐧 Plymouth State Weather Center 🐧



• Anomalously warm airmass with temps in the 60s (+20 degs. above normal!)

- Modest low level moisture for late Feb. with dew points in the 40s
- Some frontal convergence/lift provided by surface boundary.

Model GEFS Cycle 18 🔽

EAST/250WIND

a.18Z18FEB2011 GEFS Valid 00Z19FEB2011 (Sat) 250hPa ugrdprs

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b.18Z18FEB2011 GEFS Valid ODZ19FEB2011 (Sat) 250hPa vgrdprs

Ensemble	
Components:	
ODEL	INIT TIME
:00	18Z1BFEB2
01	18Z18FE82
02	18Z18FE82
03	18Z1BFEB2
04	18Z18FEB2
05	18Z18FE82
06	18Z18FEB2
07	18Z18FE82
08	18Z18FEB2
909	18Z1BFEB2
10	18Z18FE82
411	18Z1BFEB2
12	18Z1BFEB2
13	18Z1BFEB2
14	18Z1BFEB2
15	18Z18FEB2
16	18Z18FE82
17	18Z18FEB2
18 _	18Z18FE82

Day0.25 💌

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- Strong cyclonically curved upper level jet
- Anomalous jet on the order of +3 to +4 STD
- LFQ over Southern New England coupled with surface convergence = large QG forcing!





2010 Feb 19 00z, 700-500mb lapse rates from SPC meso-analysis page. Very steep mid level lapse rates!



- Impressive elevated mixed layer (EML)
- The temperature at the bottom of the EML is +13C
- Surface temperatures upstream about +15C, thus less of a cap to overcome



• Upstream sounding at ALY confirms some mid level moisture for instability to be realized.



SPS Mesoanalysis Archive

Mid level lapse rate plumes

Mid level frontogenesis

<u>SUMMARY</u>

- Steep mid level lapse rates and a high shear environment were unleashed by strong QG forcing yielding a surprise near severe convective event.
- <u>Pattern recognition</u> regardless of the season, in NW flow monitor steep mid level lapse rate plumes from the Rockies and High Plains. Will the forcing and moisture be sufficient for the instability aloft to be realized?
- EMLs are low frequency events in New England thus very difficult to forecast, but situational awareness can help once convection initiates.