



National Weather Service Des Moines

May 27, 1995

Western Iowa Tornado Outbreak



Overview:

Wednesday May 27 marks the 20 year anniversary of a major tornado outbreak that occurred in western Iowa in 1995. Nine tornadoes, including three F4 tornadoes, one F3, one F2, three F1s and an F0 struck during the late afternoon and evening hours. Although possibly not producing F4 damage simultaneously, those three violent tornadoes were all on the ground at the same time. Amazingly there were only three injuries and no deaths despite just over \$8.8 million dollars of crop and property damage. This was one of the first mini-supercell outbreaks captured by the recently installed WSR-88D Doppler Radar network. Do you have any memories of that day?

Tornadoes are currently rated via the Enhanced Fujita Scale, or EF Scale, but the rating scales are designed to be similar. An F4 tornado in years past would still be rated EF4 today based on the damage that occurred. The only difference is the estimated wind speeds.

For more information on the EF Scale, please <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/efscale>

Event Facts:

Number of Tornadoes across Western Iowa: Nine

F-0 Tornadoes: 1

F-1 Tornadoes: 3

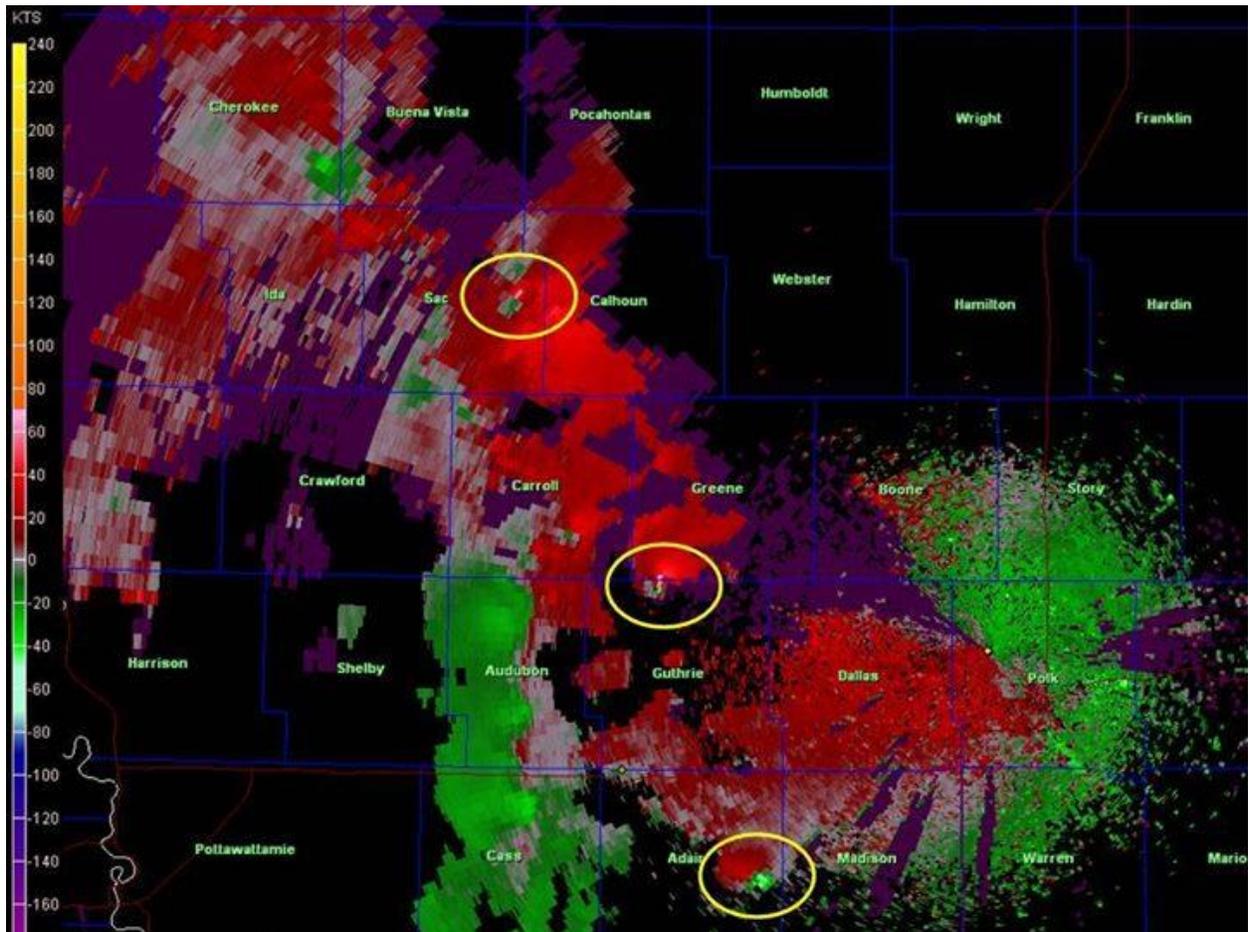
F-2 Tornadoes: 1

F-3 Tornadoes: 1

F-4 Tornadoes: 3

F-5 Tornadoes: 0

Radar Image:



Three tornadoes, producing F4 damage at some point, all on the ground simultaneously (827pm CDT - 05/27/1995). Tornadic circulations noted by yellow circles in KDMX WSR-88D Storm Relative Velocity image.