

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHICAGO IL

...APRIL 20 TORNADO UPDATE...

AFTER THREE DAYS OF EXTENSIVE GROUND AND AERIAL SURVEYS...AND REVIEWING REPORTS FROM EMERGENCY MANAGERS AND SPOTTERS...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE METEOROLOGISTS HAVE DETERMINED THAT A TOTAL OF 15 TORNADOES OCCURRED ACROSS NORTHERN ILLINOIS ON APRIL 20 2004.

IN EASTERN STARK COUNTY AND WESTERN MARSHALL COUNTY AN F1 TORNADO OCCURRED. THIS WAS THE FIRST OF SEVEN TORNADOES FROM THE SAME STORM. THE TORNADO TRAVELED FOR 1.8 MILES WITH A WIDTH OF 50 YARDS.

IN SOUTHERN BUREAU COUNTY THE SECOND TORNADO TRAVELED NEAR 1.5 MILES AND WAS ABOUT 100 YARDS WIDE. IT WAS AN F0 TORNADO.

THE THIRD TORNADO DEVELOPED ABOUT 2 MILES WEST SOUTHWEST OF GRANVILLE. THIS TORNADO HAD A 15 1/2 MILE PATH THROUGH GRANVILLE...ACROSS THE ILLINOIS RIVER AND INTERSTATE 39...INTO THE TOWN OF UTICA. IT DISSIPATED ON A RIDGE ABOUT 1/2 MILE NORTHEAST OF UTICA. THIS TORNADO PRODUCED F3 DAMAGE IN UTICA AND ITS MAXIMUM WIDTH WAS ABOUT 200 YARDS.

A FOURTH TORNADO FORMED ABOUT 2 1/2 MILES EAST NORTHEAST OF UTICA. IT TRAVELED 8 1/2 MILES TO ROUTE 23...2 MILES NORTH OF OTTAWA. THIS WAS A LARGE MULTIPLE VORTEX TORNADO THAT WAS UP TO 1/2 MILE WIDE. IT PRODUCED F2 DAMAGE. A SMALL TORNADO (#5) DEVELOPED CONCURRENT WITH THE FOURTH TORNADO. THE TORNADO WAS UP TO 20 YARDS WIDE AND 3 MILES LONG. THIS OCCURRED 1/4 TO 3/4 MILES SOUTH OF THE LARGE TORNADO. THE TORNADO BEGAN AT I-80...ABOUT 4 MILES WEST NORTHWEST OF OTTAWA AND DISSIPATED 2 1/2 MILES NORTHWEST OF OTTAWA.

THE SIXTH TORNADO WAS 1 MILE LONG AND 30 YARDS WIDE. THE TORNADO DEVELOPED 1 MILE WEST OF WEDRON AND DISSIPATED 1/2 MILE NORTHEAST OF WEDRON. THE TORNADO PRODUCED F0 DAMAGE.

THE SEVENTH AND FINAL TORNADO FROM THIS STORM OCCURRED FROM THE SOUTHEAST SIDE OF SHERIDAN TO THE EAST SIDE OF SHERIDAN. IT WAS AN F0 TORNADO WITH A PATH LENGTH OF 2 MILES.

ANOTHER STORM PRODUCED TWO TORNADOES. A TORNADO OCCURRED 5 MILES SOUTHWEST OF MINOOKA IN NORTHEAST GRUNDY COUNTY. IT HIT AN INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX FROM TABLER ROAD TO JUST WEST OF RIDGE ROAD...SOUTH OF ROUTE 6. ITS PATH LENGTH WAS 2 MILES LONG AND 20 YARDS WIDE. IT PRODUCED F0 DAMAGE.

AFTER THIS STORM MERGED WITH ANOTHER STORM OVER WILL COUNTY...IT PRODUCED A SECOND TORNADO IN JOLIET. ITS PATH WAS 1.6 MILES LONG AND 250 YARDS WIDE. IT WAS RATED F1.

ANOTHER STORM PRODUCED A SERIES OF FIVE TORNADOES OVER FORD... IROQUOIS...KANKAKEE AND SOUTHEAST WILL COUNTIES. THE FIRST TORNADO WAS ABOUT 3 MILES NORTH OF PIPER CITY. ITS PATH LENGTH WAS 1/2 MILE LONG AND 20 YARDS WIDE. IT PRODUCED F0 DAMAGE AT A FARM.

A SECOND TORNADO OCCURRED 10 MILES WEST OF ASHKUM ON THE FORD-IROQUOIS COUNTY LINE. IT CONTINUED FOR 3 MILES. IT WAS 20 YARDS WIDE AND WAS RATED F0.

A THIRD TORNADO FROM THIS STORM DEVELOPED 7 MILES SOUTHWEST OF KANKAKEE. IT ENDED 1 1/2 MILES SOUTH OF DOWNTOWN KANKAKEE...NEAR THE KANKAKEE RIVER...JUST WEST OF KANKAKEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE. THE PATH WAS 6 MILES LONG AND 30 YARDS WIDE. IT WAS RATED F1.

ANOTHER TORNADO OCCURRED FROM 1 MILE SOUTHWEST OF GRANT PARK TO 2 MILES NORTHEAST OF GRANT PARK IN NORTHEAST KANKAKEE COUNTY. ITS PATH WAS 3 MILES LONG AND 20 YARDS WIDE. IT PRODUCED F0 DAMAGE.

THE FIFTH AND FINAL TORNADO FROM THIS STORM OCCURRED 3 MILES SOUTHEAST OF BEECHER IN SOUTHEAST WILL COUNTY. IT WAS AN F0 TORNADO WITH A PATH LENGTH OF 1.5 MILES AND A WIDTH OF 20 YARDS.

ANOTHER STORM PRODUCED A TORNADO ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF HOPKINS PARK. ITS PATH WAS 3 MILES LONG AND 40 YARDS WIDE. IT PRODUCED F2 DAMAGE.