

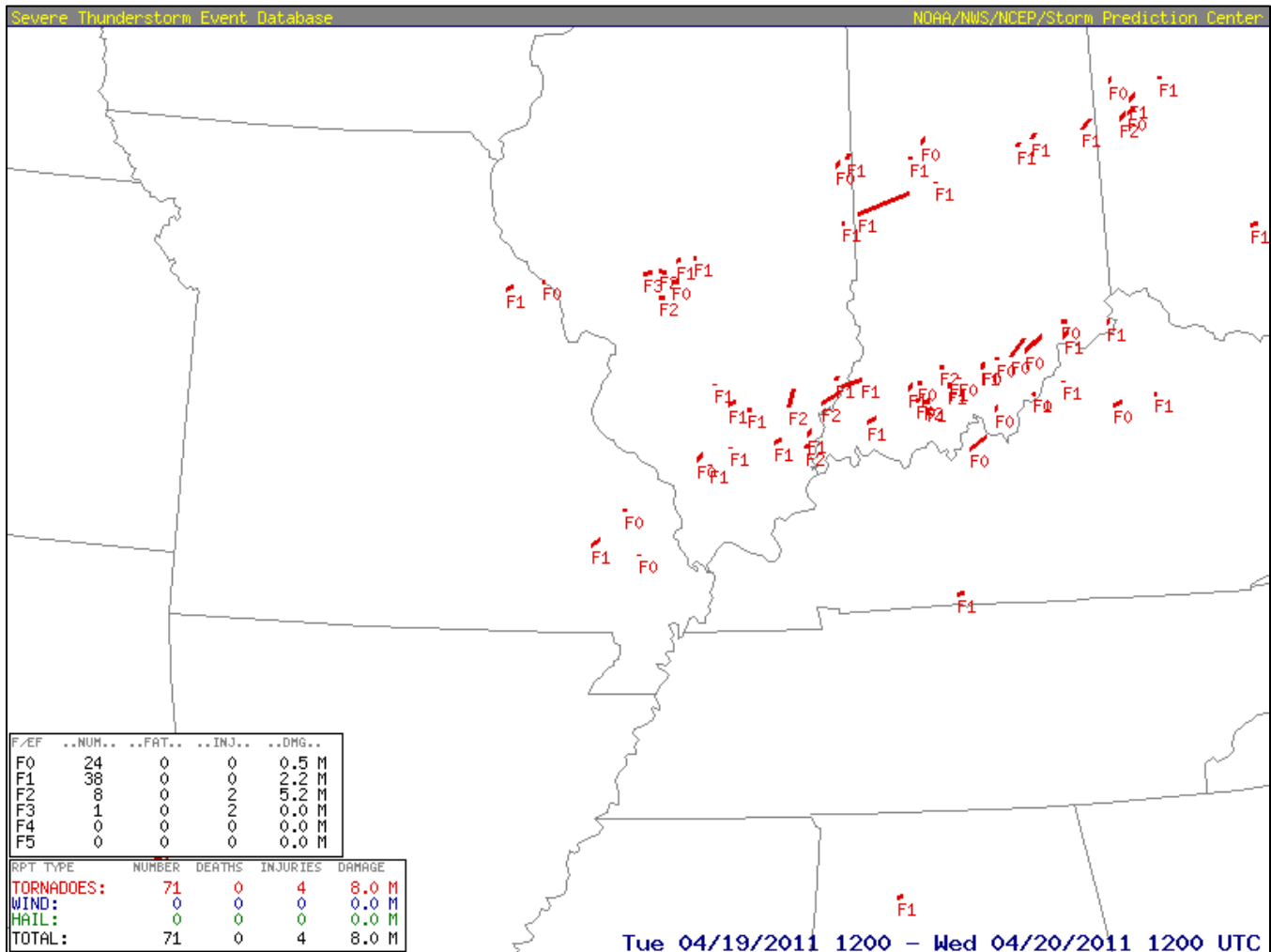
Severe Weather Outbreak

April 19th, 2011

Overview

A severe weather outbreak occurred on April 19th, 2011 across eastern Missouri and western Illinois. There were two episodes of severe thunderstorms, one during the early morning and the second in the afternoon and evening hours. The first round of severe thunderstorms brought very large hail, some up to the size of baseballs, to parts of central and eastern Missouri. These storms were elevated above the boundary layer so reports of wind damage were limited. The only report of substantial wind damage occurred to an elementary school in Spanish Lake (North St. Louis County).

The second wave of severe thunderstorms brought large hail, damaging winds and tornadoes to much of the forecast area. Six tornadoes were surveyed from this event, including one EF3, two EF2, two EF1, and one EF0.



Damage Surveys

Girard, Illinois EF3 Tornado (Macoupin IL)

The path of this tornado was a very curved one as it initially touched down about 2.5 miles west of Girard, Illinois, on Emerson Airline Road at 5:58 pm. It caused extensive damage to a couple of houses in this location. It then travelled to the northeast crossing Henry Road, north of the intersection with Emerson Airline Road, and damaging 3 farmsteads. One home was destroyed and another home sustained moderate damage, trapping the residents in the basement until they could be rescued. Also, several barns were destroyed in this area. The tornado began to travel on a more easterly course, damaging or destroying several farmsteads on Neff Road. Numerous outbuildings were destroyed in this area and one house was destroyed. As it approached Pleasant Hill Road approximately 1.2 miles northwest of Girard, it caused major damage to a brick home and destroyed all of the outbuildings. The tornado continued to travel to the east, destroying a farm about a mile north of town on Illinois Route 4. Several cows were killed in this location. Then the tornado began to curve back to the southeast, crossing Prose Road about half a mile south of the intersection with Substation Road. In this location it caused extensive damage to a brick home with most of the exterior walls destroyed but with the interior wall structure intact. This damage was rated EF3. The tornado continued to the southeast. It caused moderate roof damage to a house on Kimes Road near intersection with Adams Road. The tornado then lifted and dissipated at 6:05 pm on Adams Road after hitting one last farmstead and causing minor damage. Several farms sustained damage along the path of the tornado with many of the houses that were damaged rated EF2 with large portions of the roofs badly damaged. Numerous outbuildings were either destroyed or sustained major damage along this track as well. Also, about 20 power poles were blown down along Illinois Route 4 just north of town. The average path width of the tornado was 150 yards with a maximum width of 200 yards. The highest rating of the damage was EF3 and with peak wind speeds of 150 mph. Two miles west of Girard, two people heading for the basement to seek shelter from the tornado, sustained minor cuts and bruises. Because the path of the tornado was curved the actual total path length of the tornado was 5.1 miles.



Damage Surveys

Bowling Green (Pike County, MO) EF1 Tornado

A tornado touched down about 6 miles southwest of Bowling Green, near the intersection of County Roads 147 and 148, producing minor tree damage. The tornado then moved northeast, damaging a barn south of County Road 482 and then producing extensive tree damage just north of the intersection of County Roads 482 and 481. The tornado continued northeast, striking a farm on Highway Y. A barn was destroyed at this location, and produced extensive damage to the roof and the second story of a home.

The tornado then veered a bit to the east and produced its greatest damage to a farmstead about 2.4 miles southwest of Bowling Green and 1.5 miles west of Highway 161. The home at this location suffered extensive damage, while several outbuildings and implements were totally destroyed. Although the tornado lifted shortly after striking the farm, debris was strewn over one-half mile to the east of the farm, with insulation from the farmstead blown across Highway 161.

The total length of the tornado was about 4.1 miles, with a maximum damage width of 100 to 150 yards. Maximum damage rated at the second farmstead was high end EF1, with winds of 100 to 110 mph.



Damage Surveys

Clarksville (Pike County, MO) EF0 Tornado

The tornado touched down in the south side of Clarksville, damaging trees, removing shingles from several homes, and damaging fencing and several carports in the area. Several windows on the east side of the Catholic Church were also broken. Witnesses report that after the tornado exited Clarksville the funnel began to cross the Mississippi River, but dissipated before crossing into Calhoun County, Illinois. Total length of this tornado was 0.4 miles, with a maximum width of about 50 yards. The damage in this area was rated EF0, with winds of 70 to 75 mph.



Damage Surveys

Centralia to Salem (Marion County, IL) Wind Damage and EF1 Tornado

One tornado touched down in southwest Marion County Illinois on Tuesday April 19th. The tornado touched down approximately 1 mile east of the Centralia Municipal Airport, west of Moonglow Road and south of IL 161. Several large healthy trees were uprooted in this area and a convergent pattern was found. A house on the southwest corner of Moonglow and IL 161 sustained EF1 damage when the roof of an attached workshop or garage on the south side of the house was uplifted and thrown to the northwest. At least one 2x4 was driven into the roof on the north side of the house. A house on the southeast corner of Moonglow and IL 161 sustained minor roof damage. A trampoline on the south side of this house was blown back to the northwest and was found on the north side of IL 161. Debris was scattered into a field on the northwest corner of Moonglow and IL 161. A small outbuilding on the northeast corner of Moonglow and IL 161 sustained damage on the east facing side. A new pole barn located east of Moonglow and south of Firewood Lane collapsed.

The total length of this tornado was about 0.4 miles with a maximum width of 50 to 75 yards. Maximum damage was rated EF1 with winds of 95 mph. The vast majority of the damage sustained in the city of Centralia was due to straight line winds that were at least 75 mph.



Damage Surveys

Farmersville EF2 Tornado (Montgomery County, Illinois)

The tornado began around 608 pm, one third of a mile northwest of the intersection of Studebaker Avenue and West Frontage Road, or around one and a quarter miles north of Farmersville. The tornado moved east snapping 3 power poles along the frontage road just to the west of Interstate 55. A grain bin originally located just to the west of I-55 was rolled across the interstate and deposited in a tree line a quarter mile to the east of the interstate. A number of trees were also snapped or uprooted in the vicinity of the grain bin. The tornado moved slightly south of due east damaging or destroying two machine sheds along County Road 400E. Debris was scattered well to the east and the tornado appeared to lift near County Road 600E.

The maximum damage from this tornado was rated EF-2. The path length was around 3.2 miles with a maximum width of 150 yards.



Please note that while the severe weather data presented in this event synopsis has been quality controlled, it is still considered unofficial. Official reports & statistics for severe weather events can be found in the **Storm Data** publication (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/IPS/sd/sd.html>) or **Storm Events Database** (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>), available from the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) web page [formerly the National Climate Data Center (NCDC)].

More detailed tornado track information can be accessed using the National Weather Service Damage Assessment Toolkit for all tornadoes beginning in 2012. <https://apps.dat.noaa.gov/StormDamage/DamageViewer/>

Any questions regarding this event review should be address to w-lsx.webmaster@noaa.gov