

JANUARY 1999 TORNADOES:

During the evening of January 21 into the wee morning hours of January 22, a series of tornadoes struck southeast Missouri and adjacent portions of southern Illinois and western Kentucky. Although no fatalities were reported, a number of injuries occurred, primarily to residents of mobile homes.

UNION/ALEXANDER COUNTIES IL: F2 Tornado

Top winds were estimated near 130 MPH. Damage was relatively light due to the track of the tornado over rural portions of those counties. A few sheds and barns were destroyed, and a house sustained moderate damage. A fairly large metal barn, about 100 feet by 50 feet, was blown into a stand of trees, but remained fully intact in the upper reaches of the trees. Tree damage was complete along some wooded portions of the track. The tornado formed less than a half mile east of Thebes, and then tracked seven miles through the Shawnee National Forest. The damaged structures were near Thebes and Gale.

UNION COUNTY IL F0 – ANNA IL:

A state police officer reported a brief touchdown near Anna. Damage was minimal, with just some fencing blown down.

POPE COUNTY IL F2:

A tornado with top winds estimated near 125 MPH struck a development of cabins and small summer homes in the Shawnee National Forest, at a place called Ropers Landing. The tornado damaged or destroyed about 30 of these structures and caused extensive tree damage. About six cabins were completely demolished. The homes were unhabited in the middle of winter. Ropers Landing is located at the base of a bluff along the Ohio River. The tornado lifted as it crossed the Ohio River.

BALLARD COUNTY KY F1 (5 ENE WICKLIFFE TO 6 ENE WICKLIFFE):

This tornado was rated on the high end of the F-1 category, with top winds near 105 MPH. A mobile home containing a family of six was demolished. All six occupants escaped with only minor to moderate injuries. One small child was not discovered in the debris for over 30 minutes. Rescue workers had difficulty reaching the home due to fallen trees and barns blown onto roadways.



MCCRACKEN COUNTY KY F1:

The tornado formed near the Ballard/McCracken County line, just east of Kevil. It tracked northeast for about a mile through the Lone Lake subdivision. In the Lone Lake subdivision, three mobile homes were blown off their foundations, and two other mobile homes were severely damaged. Three garages, two cars, and a camper were destroyed. Closer to the beginning of the tornado track along the Ballard County line, two barns were destroyed, and four houses received minor damage. Top winds in this tornado were estimated near 100 MPH.

Several other weak tornadoes occurred in southeast Missouri as well and are listed below:

Scott County .5 W Sikeston to .5 N Sikeston	21	1650C ST 1653C ST	0.8	40	0	0		Tornado (F0)
A brief tornado touchdown was reported, with no damage.								
Butler County Fagus	21	1732C ST 1733C ST	0.3	30	0	0		Tornado (F0)
A brief tornado touchdown was observed, with no damage.								
New Madrid County .3 S Morehouse to .3 SE Morehouse	21	1750C ST 1751C ST	0.3	30	0	0		Tornado (F0)
A brief tornado touchdown was reported, with no damage.								
Stoddard County 4 E Essex to 4.2 E Essex	21	1800C ST 1801C ST	0.2	30	0	0		Tornado (F0)
A brief tornado touchdown occurred, with no damage reported.								
Scott County 1.5 S Benton to 1 E Benton	21	1815C ST 1818C ST	0.8	40	0	0	50K	Tornado (F1)
A brief tornado touchdown occurred, with winds estimated near 80 MPH. A mobile home was overturned, and sheds were								
New Madrid County 1 NE Morehouse to 2 NE Morehouse	21	2207C ST 2209C ST	1	100	0	0	10K	Tornado (F1)
Scott County 1 SW Sikeston to .5 W Sikeston	21	2209C ST 2210C ST	0.7	50	0	0		Tornado (F1)
The tornado contained top estimated winds of 75 MPH. Numerous trees were down in the Morehouse area.								
Stoddard County 4 NW Dexter to 5 NW Dexter	21	2240C ST 2243C ST	0.5	80	0	0	50K	Tornado (F1)
The brief tornado touchdown overturned a mobile home, causing extensive damage. A tool shed was blown away, utility poles were down, and trees were uprooted. Top winds were estimated near 80 MPH.								
Scott County Perkins to .2 N Perkins	21	2300C ST 2301C ST	0.2	30	0	0		Tornado (F0)
A weak tornado briefly touched down near Perkins. No damage was discovered.								
Scott County 3 W Morley to 2.5 W Morley	21	2305C ST 2308C ST	0.5	30	0	0	150K	Tornado (F1)
A brief tornado on State Highway 91 overturned a mobile home, demolished a barn and shed, and blew down a grain bin. Farm								