

Large Hail and Tornado Photos from April 24-25, 2003



Tornado in southern Illinois near Alexander/Pulaski County border on April 25... The above photos are courtesy of John Dissauer, meteorologist at a Cape Girardeau television station. The photos are still shots from video taken from the intersection of Highways 3 and 127. The footage was shot around 2:45 P.M. The National Weather Service conducted a damage survey and determined a weak tornado briefly touched down in Alexander County. The general location of the tornado is a remote area about 10 miles north of the river town of Cairo. Click on photos for larger size. A Tornado Warning was issued for Alexander and Pulaski Counties.

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PADUCAH KY
940 PM CDT SAT APR 26 2003

...STORM DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FOR ALEXANDER AND PULASKI COUNTY FOR THE
APRIL 25 EVENT...

A STORM DAMAGE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN THE AREA SATURDAY APRIL 26...AND
ALONG WITH REVIEWING VIDEO AND EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS...THE FOLLOWING
FINDINGS HAVE BEEN MADE...

- * EVENT DATE: 25 APR 2003
- * EVENT TYPE: F0 TORNADO
- * ESTIMATED MAX WIND SPEED: 65 MPH
- * ESTIMATED TIME OF TORNADO: 245 PM CDT
- * TORNADO LOCATION: ONE OR MORE BRIEF TOUCHDOWNS IN ALEXANDER COUNTY...
NEAR OLIVE BRANCH TO JUST NORTH OF UNITY.
- * INJURIES: NONE
- * FATALITIES: NONE

Funnel cloud at Charleston, Missouri on April 25... The above photos are courtesy of John Dissauer and are taken from video of the funnel cloud. The funnel cloud, which occurred during the midday hours, was not associated with a parent thunderstorm.



Tornado just west of Calvert City, KY in Marshall County on April 25... Photo of tornado just as it was touching down near Possum Trot, Kentucky. Photos were taken by Alicia Donohoo.



The Tornado Damage... A damage survey revealed F1 tornado damage occurred in and near the Possum Trot community, about 12 miles east-southeast of Paducah. The damage consisted mostly of uprooted trees and minor to moderate damage to garages, sheds, and mobile homes.

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PADUCAH KY
950 AM CDT SAT APR 26 2003

...PRELIMINARY STORM DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FOR MARSHALL COUNTY KENTUCKY
NEAR CALVERT CITY...

A STORM DAMAGE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN THE AREA JUST WEST OF CALVERT CITY KENTUCKY EARLY THIS MORNING. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS.

* EVENT DATE: 25 APR 2003

* EVENT TYPE: F1 TORNADO

* ESTIMATED MAX WIND SPEED: 75 MPH

* ESTIMATED TIME OF TORNADO: 409 TO 412 PM CDT

* TORNADO DAMAGE LOCATION: 12 MILES EAST-SOUTHEAST OF PADUCAH...ALONG U.S. HIGHWAY 62 BETWEEN CALVERT CITY AND THE MCCRACKEN COUNTY LINE.

* TORNADO DAMAGE AREA: ABOUT 1.5 MILES LONG AND 100 YARDS WIDE. DAMAGE PATH WAS ALONG AND JUST NORTH OF U.S. 62 FROM THE POSSUM TROT COMMUNITY TO JUST EAST OF THERE. DAMAGE BEGAN AT U.S. 62 AND VAUGHNS CHAPEL ROAD AND ENDED AT HIGHWAY 1413 JUST NORTH OF U.S. ROUTE 62.

* DAMAGE: MAINLY SHEDS...MOBILE HOMES...AND GARAGES RECEIVED VARYING DEGREES OF DAMAGE. TREES DOWN.

* DAMAGE COST: PRELIMINARY ROUGH ESTIMATE OF 30 THOUSAND DOLLARS.

* INJURIES: NONE

* FATALITIES: NONE



The above damage photo is courtesy of Duane Hawkins.

Large hail near Sesser, Illinois on April 24... Severe thunderstorms affected parts of southern Illinois and southeast Missouri during the evening of April 24. Large hail was observed at isolated locations, including hail up to baseball size at Mount Vernon, Illinois and golf-ball size hail several miles south of Doniphan, Missouri. This large hail photo was taken about 1.5 miles east of Sesser, Illinois in Franklin County. The photo was taken by Amos and Trudy Irvin and forwarded courtesy of John Dissauer. The hail fell around 5:30 P.M. on April 24 and was photographed on a kitchen counter, with a quarter in the center for comparison.



Overview of the event - The severe storms on both days formed in association with a strong upper level low that tracked east from Kansas. The upper-level low crossed the southern tip of Illinois late in the day on April 25. Very cold air aloft was favorable for hail and funnel clouds. A Severe Thunderstorm Watch was issued for parts of western Kentucky around midday on April 25 and was later upgraded to a Tornado Watch.