

# October 18 Tornadoes in Southern IL

A supercell thunderstorm tracked east across southern IL, producing two F-2 tornadoes with a combined path length of 23 miles. The heaviest damage and two injuries occurred about 10 miles south of Marion, near the Lake of Egypt. Mobile homes were demolished. A trucker was injured when his rig was overturned near the junction of Interstates 57 and 24. Much of the path length was through the Shawnee National Forest. Other supercell storms occurred across the region, producing large hail. Several other weaker tornadoes were also found in southern IL along with a two brief touchdowns in KY and MO.

## Below are the details on all of the tornadoes:

### Union County

1.8 ENE Wayside to 2.3 ENE Wayside	18	1816CST 1819CST	0.5	50	0	0	4K	Tornado (F1)
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The tornado touched down in the extreme northeast corner of Union County, only about one-half mile from the Johnson County line. A metal machine shed was destroyed. The television antenna on a nearby home was blown down. Branches were blown down, and a few trees were snapped. The estimated winds were around 75 MPH. The tornado moved into northwestern Johnson County.

### Johnson County

4.5 NW Goreville to 3.3 NNW Goreville	18	1819CST 1825CST	2.5	50	0	1	10K	Tornado (F1)
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From Union County, the tornado crossed into extreme northwest Johnson County, only about a half mile south of the Williamson County line. The tornado then moved northeast into Williamson County where Interstate 57 crosses the county line. A semi was overturned on Interstate 57 less than a mile south of the Interstate 24 interchange. The driver was injured. Peak winds along this portion of the tornado path were around 75 MPH.

### Williamson County

1 WSW Pulleys Mill to Pulleys Mill	18	1825CST 1828CST	1.5	75	0	0	25K	Tornado (F1)
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The tornado entered Williamson County from Johnson County where Interstate 57 crosses the county line. The tornado passed less than a half mile south of the junction of Interstates 24 and 57. The tornado was only on the ground for about a mile in Williamson County before turning back southeast into Johnson County near Route 37. In the community of Pulleys Mill, dozens of large trees were topped or uprooted, one home received partial roof damage, and a garage roof was peeled. Utility poles and lines were downed. Peak winds along this segment of the tornado were estimated near 80 MPH.

**Johnson County**  
3 N Goreville to  
4 ENE Goreville

18 1828CST  
1835CST 4.3 250 0 2 500K Tornado (F2)

The tornado turned east-southeast from Williamson County back into Johnson County. The bulk of the damage and injuries occurred in a neighborhood on the southern half of the Lake of Egypt. The two injured persons were mobile home residents whose homes were demolished. One of the mobile homes was swept clean off its foundation. The demolished home was deposited 50 to 100 yards away. The 32-year-old male occupant of the mobile home, who was ejected from the home, received numerous bruises and cuts. A female resident of another mobile home was injured. In total, three mobile homes were destroyed, and dozens of mobile homes, barns, and sheds were damaged. Rescue efforts were hampered by a large amount of tree debris on roads. Peak winds in the Lake of Egypt neighborhood were estimated near 120 MPH. The tornado lifted as it reached the southeast side of the Lake of Egypt. The parent thunderstorm produced another tornado in northern Johnson County only a few miles beyond where this tornado lifted.

**Johnson County**  
3 N Tunnel Hill to  
3 E Ozark

18 1843CST  
1855CST 8 100 0 0 50K Tornado (F1)

This tornado touched down less than ten minutes after an earlier tornado in northern Johnson County lifted. Both tornadoes were produced by the same supercell thunderstorm. The tornado tracked entirely across Shawnee National Forest land, causing extensive tree damage. Near the touchdown point, a mobile home was destroyed, and another mobile home was damaged. In the community of Ozark, the general store received extensive roof damage. Branches were blown down in the community, and large trees were down 1 to 2 miles east of Ozark. The tornado strengthened to F-2 intensity after crossing into Pope County.

**Pope County**  
1.5 SW Abbott to  
2 N Eddyville

18 1855CST  
1904CST 6 300 0 0 150K Tornado (F2)

This tornado entered Pope County from Johnson County in a remote area of the Shawnee National Forest. Most of the track was through heavily forested areas, causing extensive tree destruction. The tornado reached its peak intensity about a mile northeast of Bell Smith Springs, a scenic river gorge about 4 miles northwest of Eddyville. Peak winds were estimated near 120 MPH. Near the end of the damage path, just as the tornado was reaching Illinois Route 145, a mobile home was damaged.

A supercell thunderstorm organized over southern Jackson County, then spawned a tornado as it moved east along the Union/Williamson County line. This supercell continued east-southeast across northern Johnson and northern Pope Counties, producing two significant tornadoes and large hail. Although the storm exhibited strong rotation as it continued east through Hardin County and across the Ohio River into Kentucky, no additional tornadoes were reported there.

**Calloway County**  
3 NW Hazel to  
3.1 NNW Hazel

18 1914CST  
1915CST 0.2 50 0 0 5K Tornado (F0)

Some trees and power lines were downed by this weak, short-lived tornado

**Bollinger County**  
6.4 NNE Patton to  
6.5 NNE Patton

18 1651CST 0.2 50 0 0 Tornado (F0)

A trained spotter and other witnesses observed a brief tornado touchdown along Highway KK, near the Perry County line. The tornado occurred in a wooded area. No damage was found, other than some broken small tree branches.

**PICTURES FROM JOHNSON AND POPE COUNTIES IN ILLINOIS:**













