

Student Corner
07/30/2021
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Student Corner is a weekly blog about the weather in eastern New York, western New England, and beyond. It is maintained by Pathways Student Megan Caldwell.

Severe storms passed through much of the Upper Midwest and the Great Lakes region between Wednesday and Thursday. Much of the damage was felt within the state of Wisconsin. Downed trees and powerlines were reported throughout central and southeastern Wisconsin with estimates that 90,000 people lost power during the storm. One person was killed in a car crash as a result of this storm.

NWS forecasters from the [Milwaukee-Sullivan office](#) determined that at least four tornadoes touched down in southern Wisconsin. Three of these tornadoes were rated an EF1, and one tornado was rated an EF0. Outside of the tornado damage, many parts of the state also experienced strong straight-line winds, resulting in several downed trees.

[Straight-line winds](#) cause most of the damage during thunderstorms. While they can reach similar speeds to a tornado, and can cause similar damage to a tornado, straight-line winds [do not rotate](#). Instead, these winds result in damage that is laid out in one direction, such as flattened fields of crops or toppled-over trees.

While tornadoes cover a relatively small area, straight-line winds can cause damage across entire cities or even counties. When it comes to severe storms, strong winds are strong winds. Seek shelter in an indoor room on the lowest level of the building you are in. Stay away from windows.