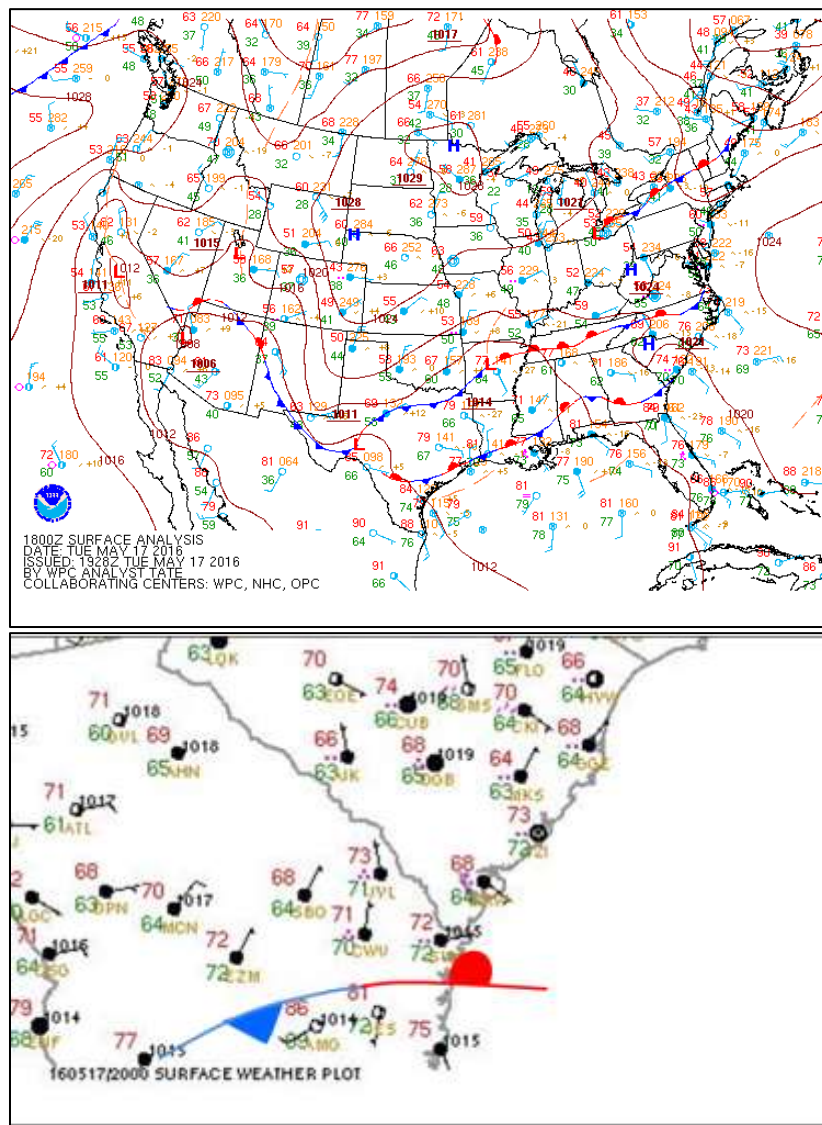
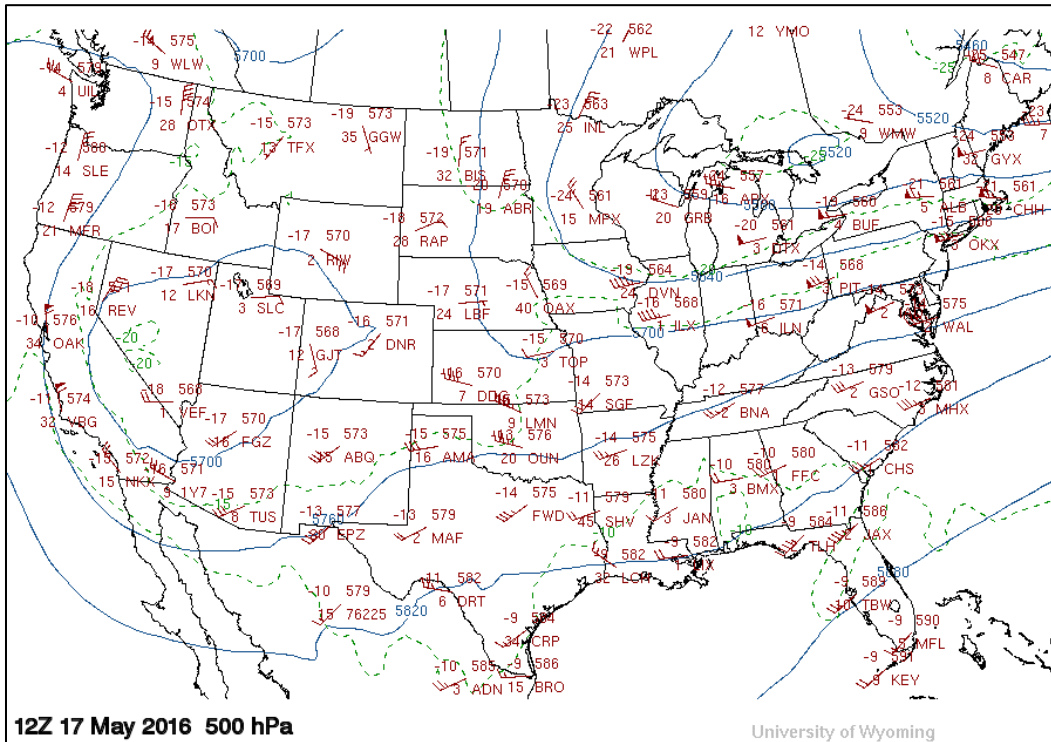
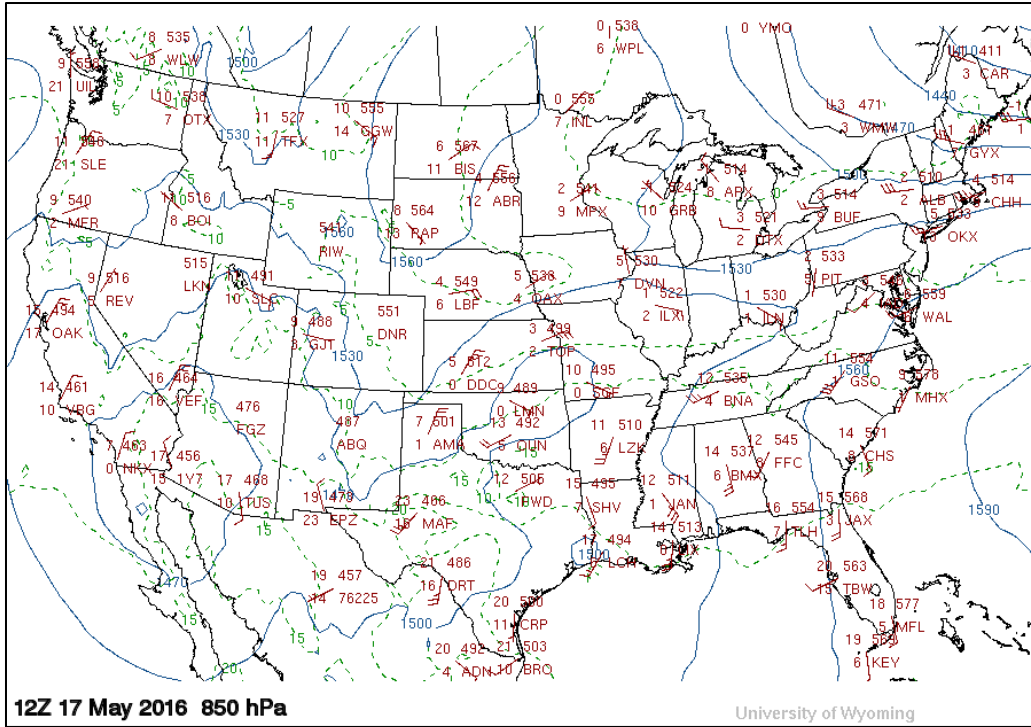


May 17, 2016, Bloomingdale GA EF-1 Tornado

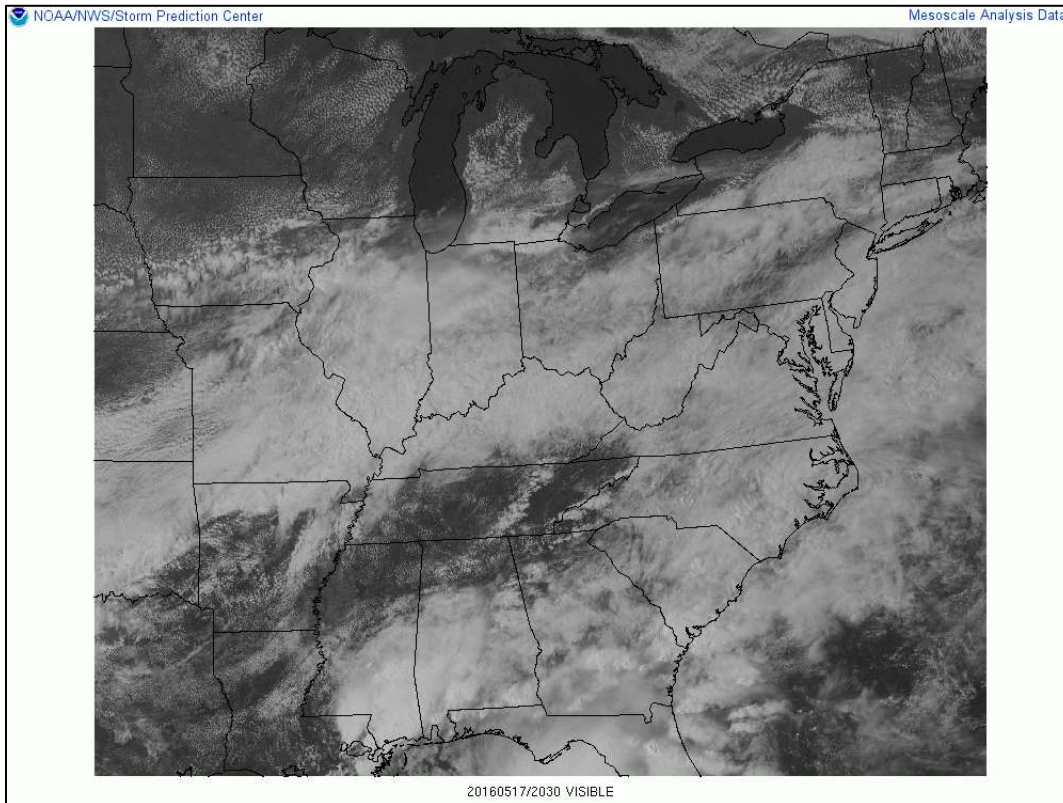
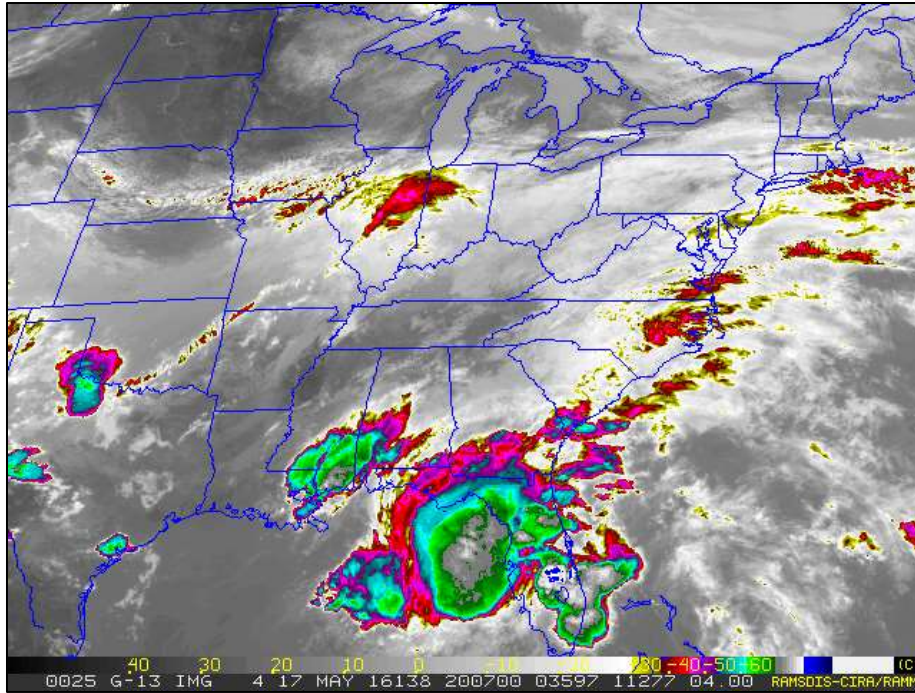
On Tuesday, May 17, 2016, a brief EF-1 tornado touched down about 1 mile west-northwest of Bloomingdale in Chatham County GA. The tornado occurred within a high shear, low CAPE environment near a stationary front. This scenario is not uncommon from late fall into spring .



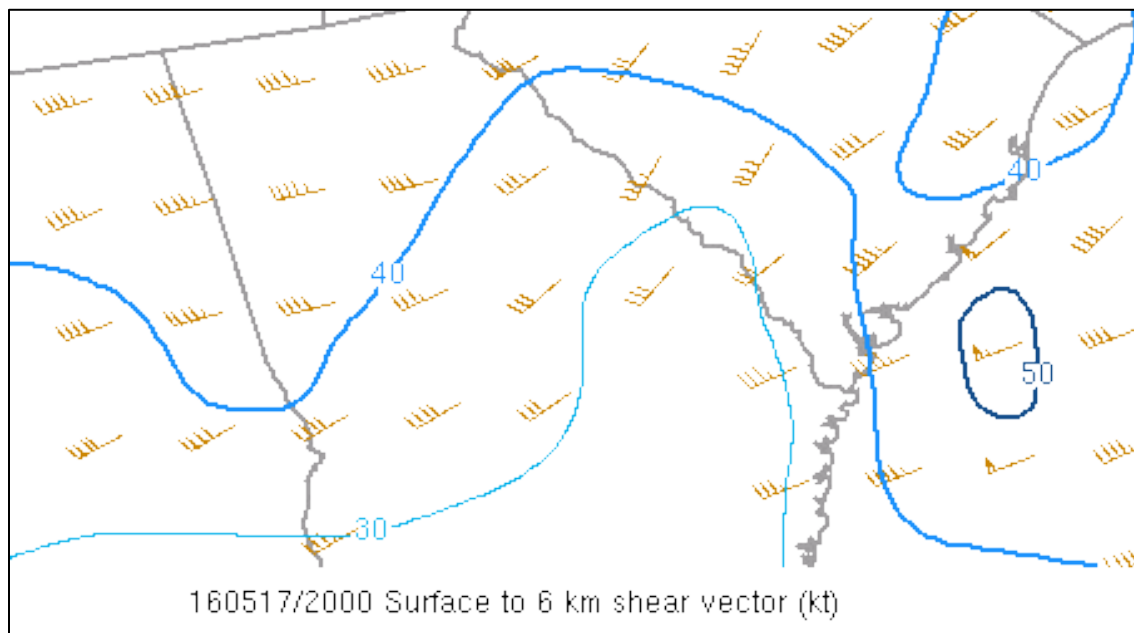
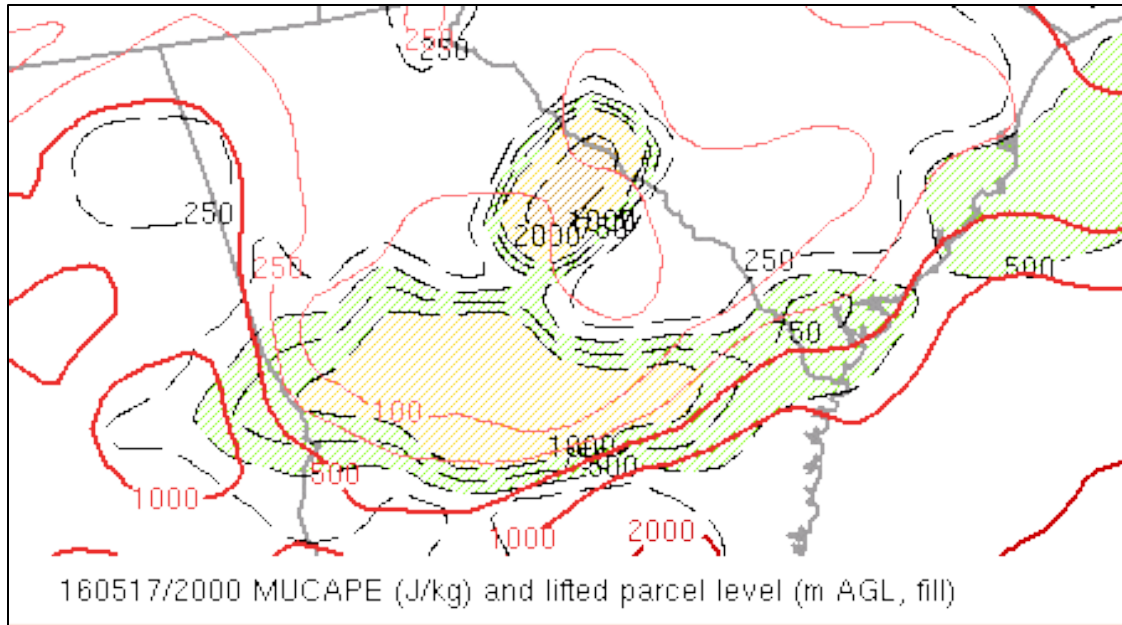
The WPC surface analysis for 18Z (2 pm EDT) and a close-up analysis valid 4 pm EDT depicting a stationary front draped across central and southeast Georgia.



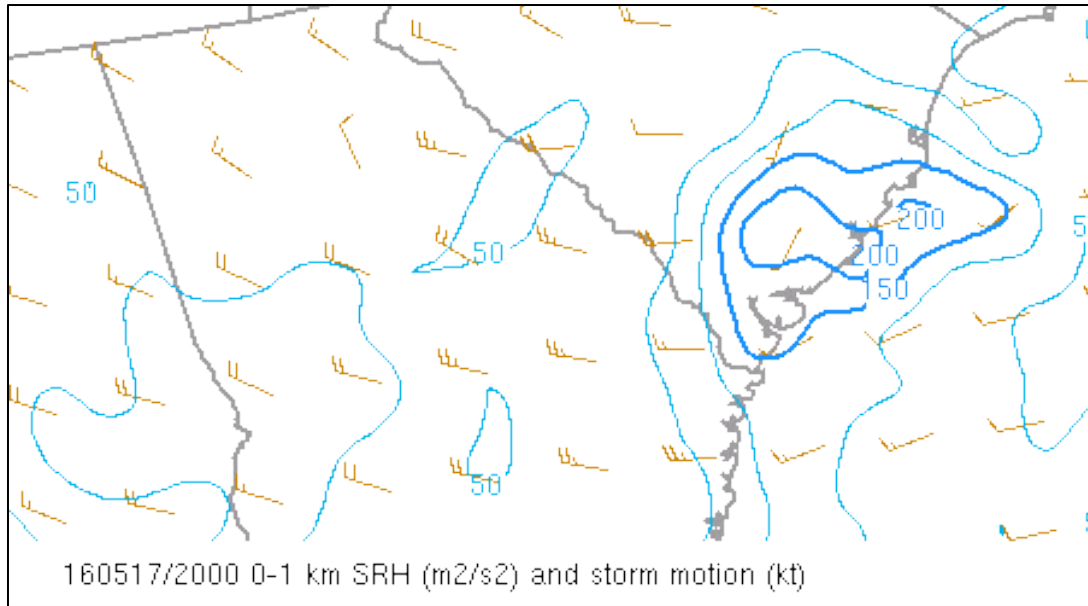
12z 850 and 500 mb observations and analysis. Note the clockwise turning of the wind from 850 mb to 500 mb.



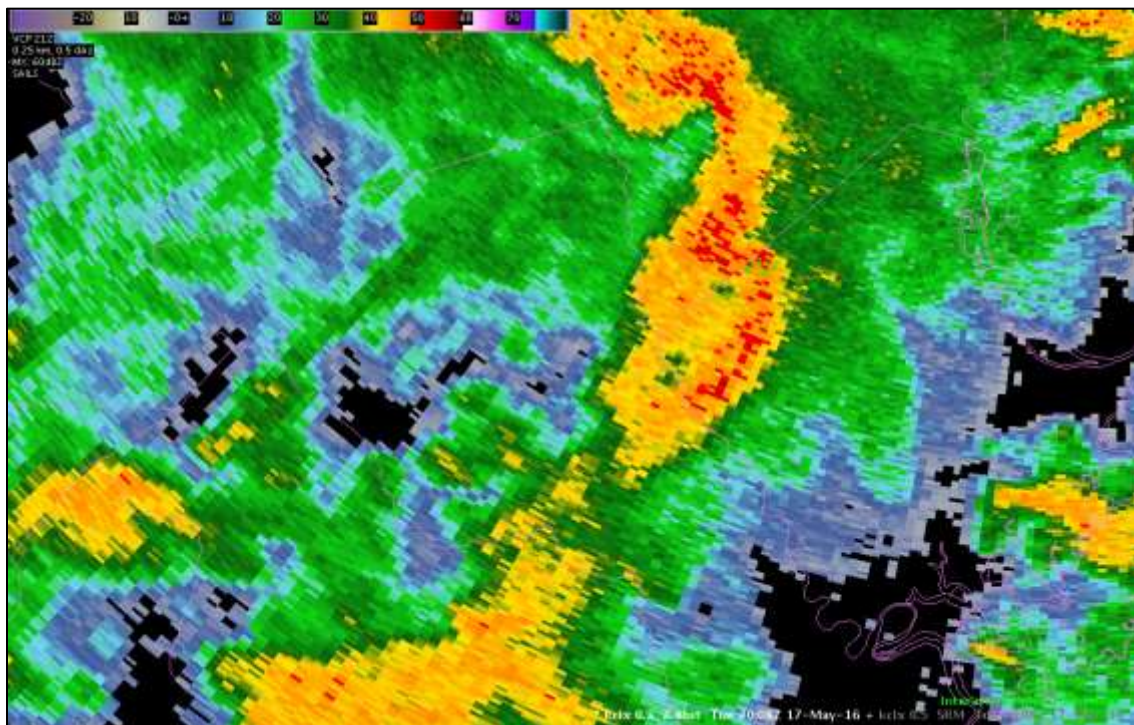
Infrared satellite imagery valid 407 PM EDT and visible satellite imagery valid 430 pm EDT. Thunderstorms with very cold cloud tops were located over the Gulf of Mexico and Florida, while widespread clouds were noted across SE GA.



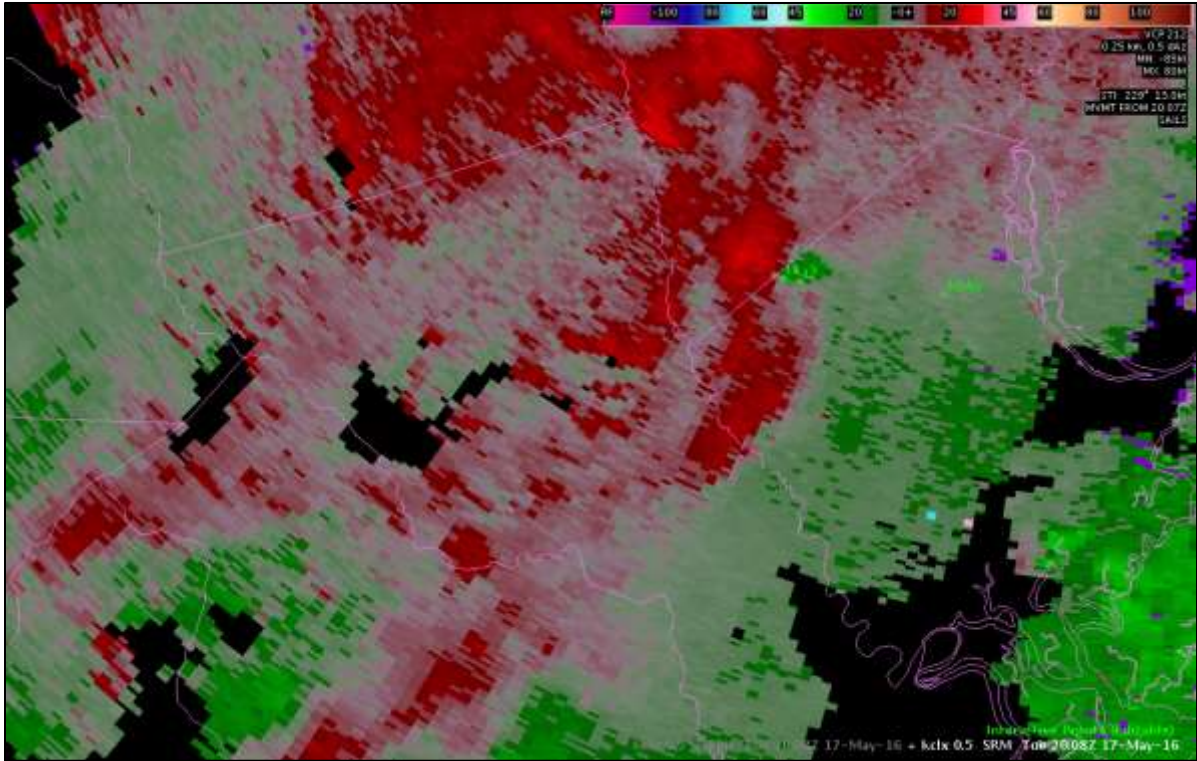
SPC mesoanalysis depicting most unstable CAPE just under 1000 J/KG (top figure) 0-6 KM bulk shear around 35 knots (bottom figure). CAPE indicates the potential for moist updrafts to develop into thunderstorms, while shear indicates the potential for stronger, longer-lived thunderstorm updrafts. In this case, CAPE remained rather low, but stronger shear was able to compensate for this limitation.



SPC mesoanalysis, valid 4 pm EDT, depicting a pocket of enhanced 0-1 km storm relative helicity north of the stationary front and in the vicinity of the tornado. Storm relative helicity indicates the potential for thunderstorm updrafts to rotate.



KCLX 0.5 degree reflectivity valid 408 pm EDT, about a minute before tornado touchdown (which occurred between points t1 and t2). Note the "S" configuration.



KCLX 0.5 degree storm relative velocity at 408 PM ED, one minute before the brief EF-1 touchdown. Points t1 and t2 mark the start and end of the tornado. Rotation occurs where red (outbound wind) and green (inbound wind) exist in close proximity.

Public Information Statement
 National Weather Service Charleston SC
 454 PM EDT WED MAY 18 2016

...Tornado Confirmed Near Bloomingdale Georgia...

Location...Bloomingdale, GA (Chatham County)
 Date...05/17/2016
 Estimated Time...409 PM EDT
 Maximum EF-Scale Rating...EF-1
 Estimated Maximum Wind Speed...90-95 mph
 Maximum Path Width...100 yards
 Path Length...1 mile
 Beginning Lat/Lon...32.1413N / 81.32118W
 Ending Lat/Lon...32.1393N / 81.3084W
 * Fatalities...0
 * Injuries...0

* The information in this statement is preliminary and subject to change pending final review of the event(s) and publication in NWS Storm Data.

...Summary...

The National Weather Service in Charleston SC has confirmed an EF-1 tornado near Bloomingdale, Georgia on May 17, 2016.

A weak tornado with EF-0 intensity touched down near a mobile home on Pop Shearouse Road. Most of the roof of the mobile home was blown off and some tree damage occurred. As the tornado progressed eastward, it intensified and snapped trees along Stagecoach Road. Roof fascia was also ripped off of a home. The degree of tree damage in this area was consistent with an EF-1 tornado with maximum winds estimated to be 90-95 mph. The tornado continued eastward to Cheyenne Road where the damage pattern became more sporadic. Here, trees were uprooted and damage to the roof of an RV and outbuilding occurred. The tornado continued to produce isolated tree damage as it moved eastward before dissipating near Jimmy DeLoach Parkway.

The tornado touched down around 409 pm and lifted around 413 pm. It was on the ground for 1 mile and had a maximum damage width of 100 yards.

For reference...the Enhanced Fujita Scale classifies tornadoes into the following categories:

EF0...wind speeds 65 to 85 mph.
EF1...wind speeds 86 to 110 mph.
EF2...wind speeds 111 to 135 mph.

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