PARKERSBURG - NEW HARTFORD, IOWA EF-5 TORNADO
May 25, 2008
43 Mile Damage Track
National Weather Service - Des Moines, Iowa

A woman was killed as her home was swept away. Only vehicle frames and tree trunks remained. Even the basement was cleared. The tornado was rated EF-5 at this location. The New Hartford cemetery is in the background.

The most severe destruction in Parkersburg occurred south of the town core, which looked directly onto the First State Bank (left photo). Severely twisted and splintered fence panels of the bank are in the foreground of the right looking east view (middle photo). Major trees were snapped to debarked stubs. The high school (right photo) is shown in a remote EF-3 damage.

Aerial photos from the Civil Air Patrol and IowaHelicopter.com show the path of the destruction through south and east Parkersburg. Damage was EF4 to EF-5 at the core of the track.

Nine people died in the tornado, the most since the Charles City tornado of 1968. Seven were killed in Parkersburg, one person west of New Hartford, and another north of New Hartford. In addition, businesses, farms and hundreds of homes were destroyed.

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