



National Weather Service Des Moines

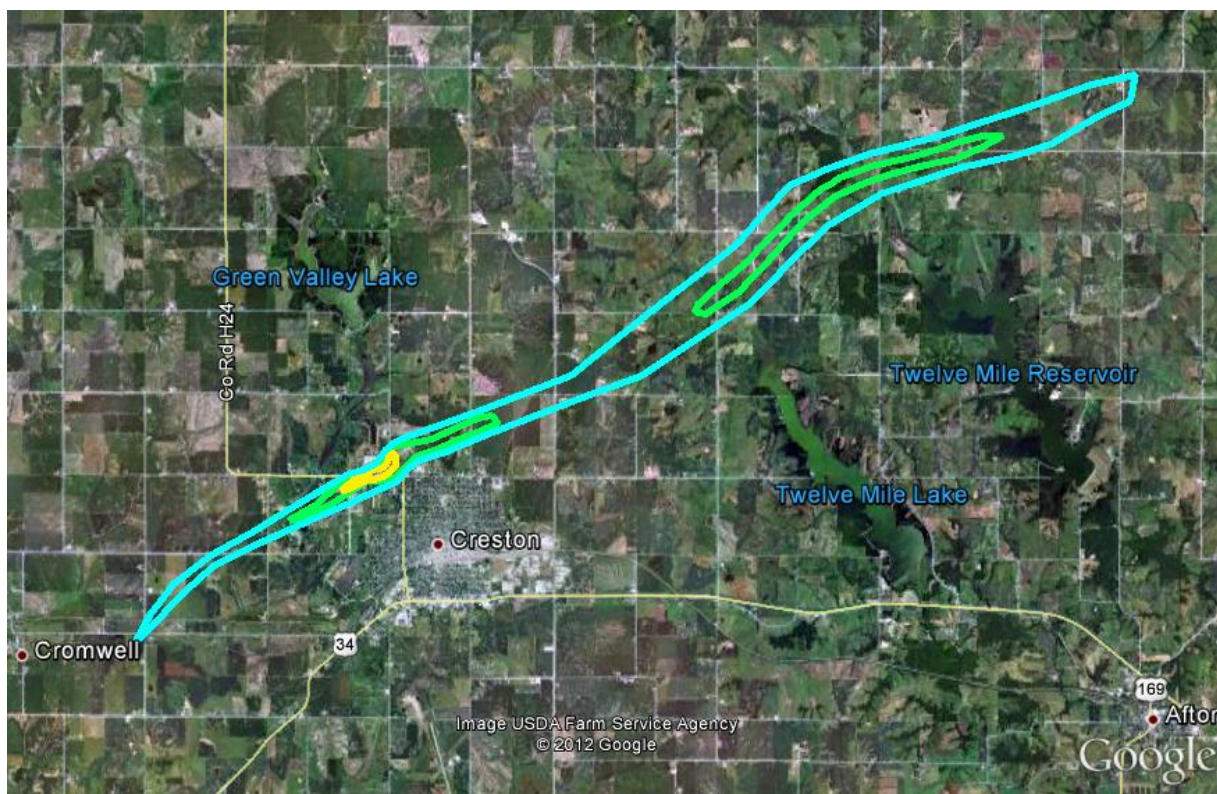


Storm Survey Results from Union County/Creston on April 14, 2012

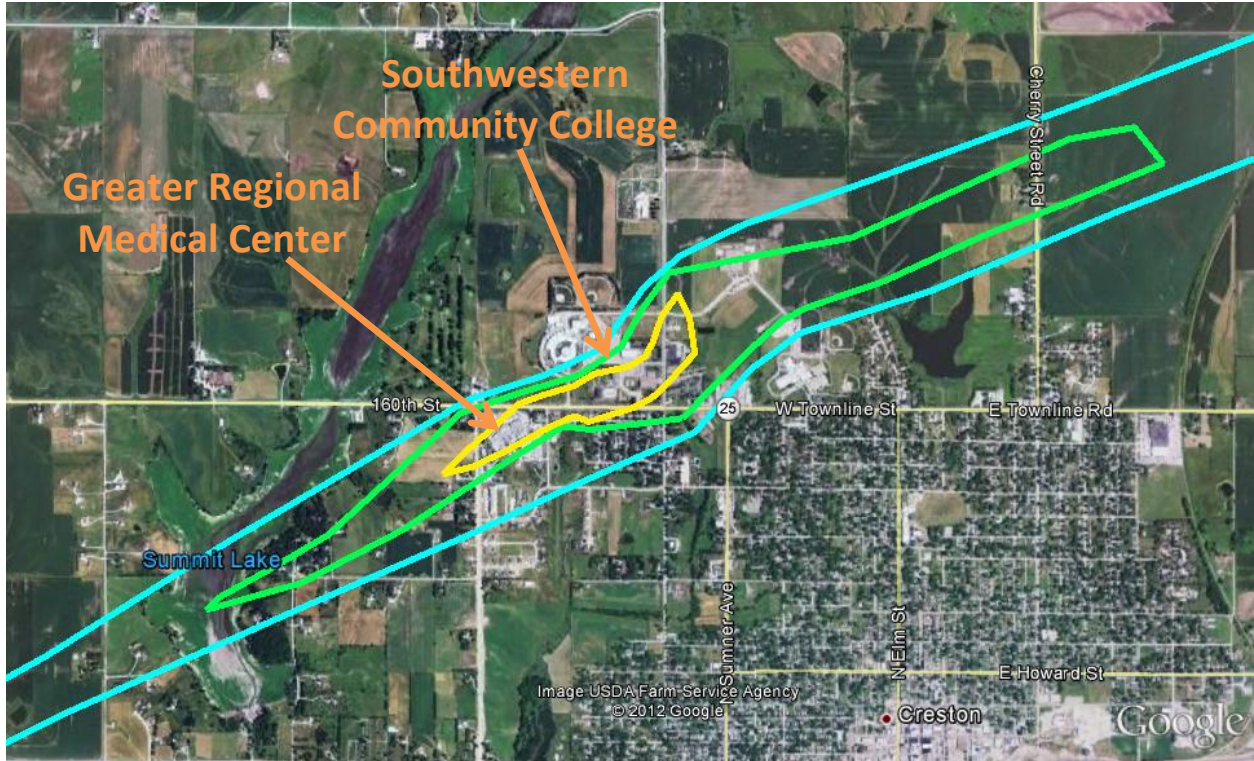
Updated on April 17, 2012

Overview:

Several rounds of severe weather moved across Iowa during the late afternoon and evening hours of Saturday, April 14. A tornado watch was issued for southern Iowa shortly before 3:00pm. A few tornadoes were reported in south central Iowa, along with strong straight line winds and hail up to 2.5 inches in diameter. Most of these tornadoes were brief touchdowns; however, a significant tornado caused high end EF2 damage to the far northwest corner of Creston. This tornado formed about one and a half miles east of Cromwell at 6:55pm and quickly tracked into northwest Creston around 7:00pm. EF2 damage occurred to the Greater Regional Medical Center and the Southwestern Community College campus. Surrounding apartments and homes also sustained severe damage and many cars were flipped or destroyed. The tornado continued tracking to the northeast and damaged several farmsteads northeast of Creston before dissipating about 10 miles northeast of town at approximately 7:15pm.

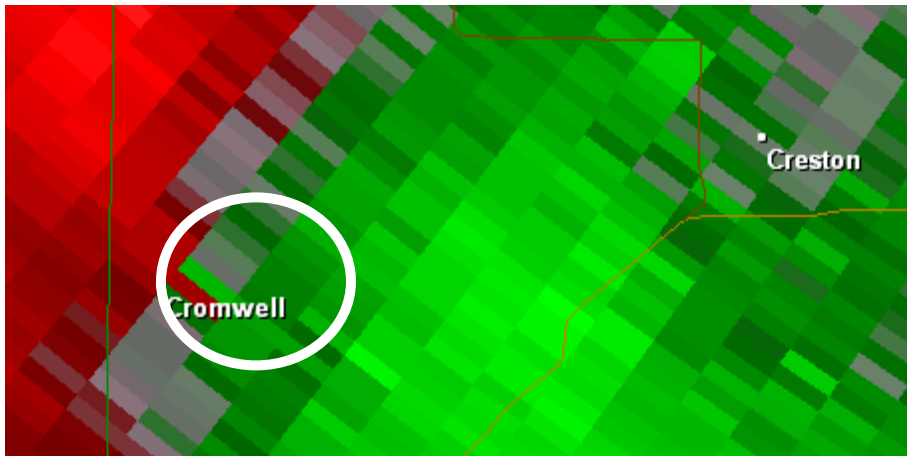


The path of the Creston tornado. Overall path length was 14 miles. The light blue contour denotes EF0 damage, green denotes EF1 damage, and yellow represents EF2 damage.

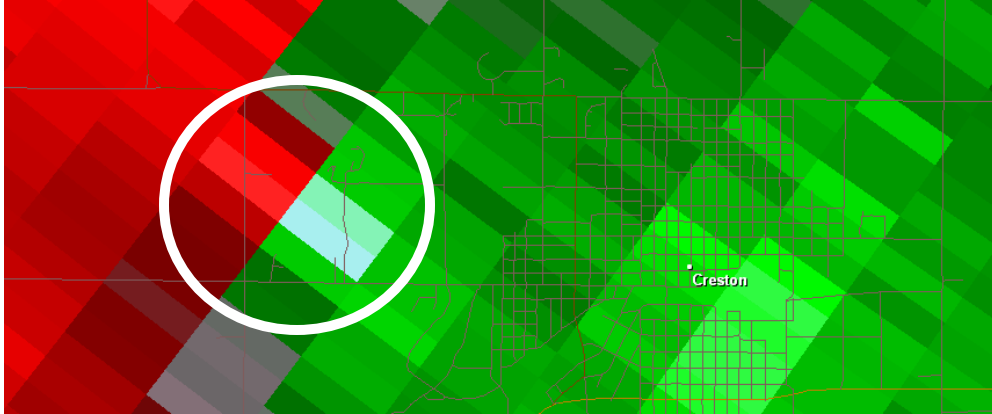


Close up of the tornado path through northwest Creston. The light blue contour denotes EF0 damage, green denotes EF1 damage, and yellow represents EF2 damage.

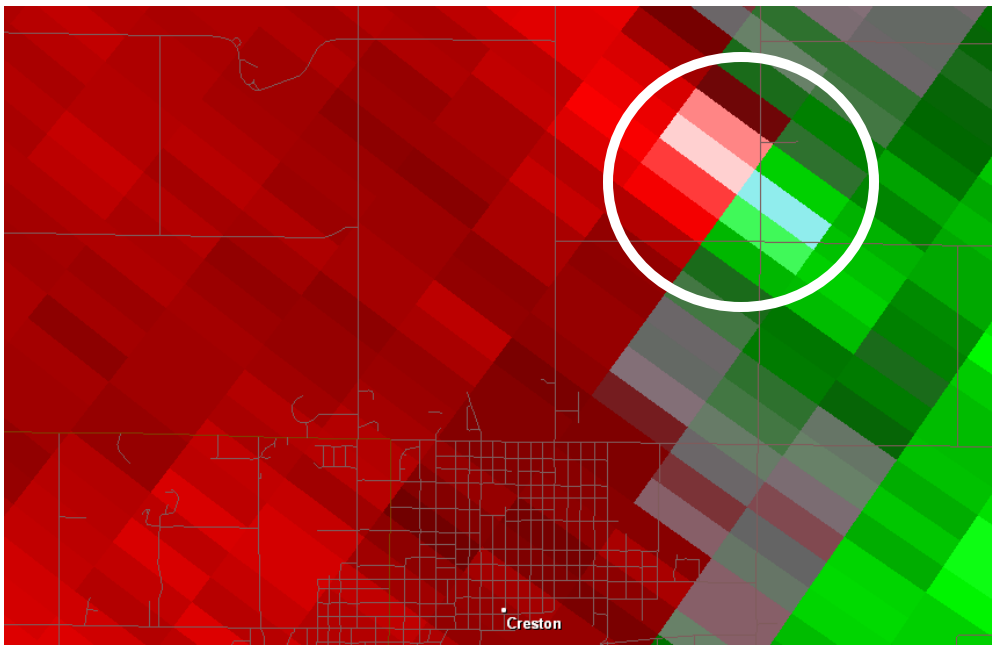
Radar Data (Storm-Relative Velocity):



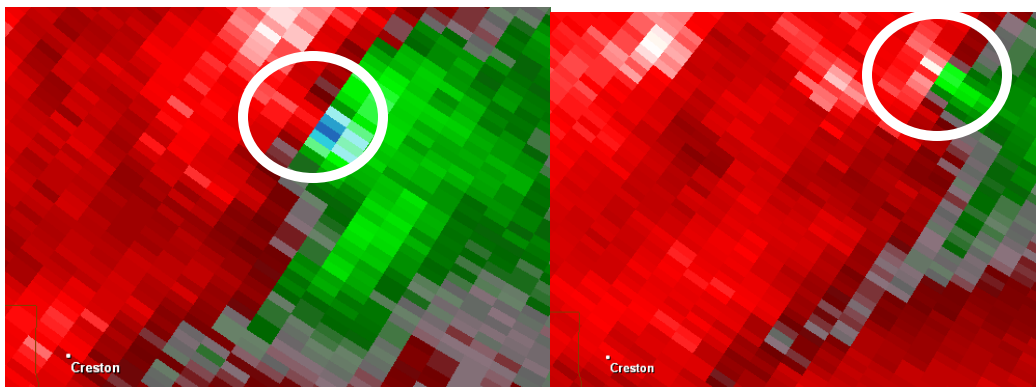
6:55pm: Tornado touches down just east of Cromwell.



7:00pm: Tornado moving into the outskirts of northwest Creston.



7:05pm: Tornado moving away from Creston.



7:09 and 7:14pm: The tornado tracks away from Creston and dissipates. Creston is at the lower left corner of the two images.

Survey Results:

The damage survey was conducted by NWS meteorologists. The intent of the survey was to document the damage, estimate the wind speeds, and determine if the damage was caused by straight-line thunderstorm winds or a tornado. The detailed findings of the survey are listed below.

Event Type: Tornado

Tornado Strength: EF2

Estimated Start Time: 6:55pm, dissipated at 7:15pm

Event Location: Started 1.5 miles east of Cromwell, tracked through northwest Creston, and dissipated 10 miles northeast of Creston

Peak Wind Speed: 130mph

Path Length: 14 Miles

Average Path Width: Approximately 600 Yards through Creston

Injuries: 10 (Preliminary)

Fatalities: 0 (Preliminary)

Damage Path and Photos:

EF2 Damage Area 1:

The Greater Regional Medical Center in northwest Creston sustained rather substantial damage. A part of the building lost much of its roof and had a wall collapse. Winds were estimated near 120 mph.



EF2 Damage Area 2:

The Green Hills Educational Center also sustained significant damage as the storm rolled through. The school completely lost its roof and one of its walls. Winds at this point were estimated near 130 mph.



Other Damage Photos along the Path



A one-story residence sustained major damage just west of Creston.



Debris clutters a yard north of Creston.



*An apartment building sustained roof damage.
Cars in the parking lot were dented and
damaged.*



*A car was completely flipped on the north side of
Creston.*