

Public Information Statement on April 17, 2026 Storm Damage Survey Findings

Ten Total Tornadoes
(one of which entered NWS Chicago's area, one entered NWS Lincoln's Area)

Also widespread straight-line wind damage in McDonough County

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Quad Cities IA/IL

...NWS Damage Survey for 04/17/2026 Tornadoes and Straight Line Wind...

.Maquoketa Caves Area Iowa Tornado...

Rating:	EFU
Estimated Peak Wind:	Unknown
Path Length /statute/:	1.03 miles
Path Width /maximum/:	Unknown
Fatalities:	0
Injuries:	0
Start Date:	04/17/2026
Start Time:	02:15 PM CDT
Start Location:	1 N Maquoketa Caves State Park / Jackson County / IA
Start Lat/Lon:	42.127 / -90.7807
End Date:	04/17/2026
End Time:	02:19 PM CDT
End Location:	1 SSE Ironhills / Jackson County / IA
End Lat/Lon:	42.1298 / -90.7609

Survey Summary:
Spotters and chasers reported a tornado that lasted for

4 minutes. With no known damage the rating is an EFU with an estimated path of 1 mile.

.Galena Territory Iowa Tornado...

Rating: EF1
Estimated Peak Wind: 95 mph
Path Length /statute/: 3.70 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 100 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 04/17/2026
Start Time: 02:47 PM CDT
Start Location: 2 ESE Galena Territory / Jo Daviess
County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 42.3913 / -90.2979

End Date: 04/17/2026
End Time: 02:54 PM CDT
End Location: 1 SW Schapville / Jo Daviess County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 42.3888 / -90.2258

Survey Summary:

EF1 tornado with max winds speed of 90-95 mph begun just east of the Galena Territories causing damage to the awning of house. The tornado then caused sporadic tree damage along it's 3.7 mile long path. Of interesting note, the tornado mainly caused damage in the valley areas where stretching of the vortex likely increased wind speeds.

.Lena Illinois Tornado...

Rating: EF2
Estimated Peak Wind: 130 mph

Path Length /statute/: 12.54 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 1250 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 04/17/2026
Start Time: 03:32 PM CDT
Start Location: 3 NNE Kent / Stephenson County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 42.3547 / -89.8738

End Date: 04/17/2026
End Time: 04:03 PM CDT
End Location: 1 N Buena Vista / Stephenson County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 42.4539 / -89.6769

Survey Summary:

A high-end EF2, possible multi-vortex, tornado with estimated peak winds around 130 mph started along Highway 20, southwest of Lena IL, and tracked through Lena before lifting just southwest of Orangeville. The tornado caused significant damage to trees along its 12.5 mile long path, including uprooting and snapping trees. When the tornado begun it immediately caused EF1 damage to trees, gaining strength to an EF2 tornado snapping many power poles southwest of Lena. The tornado turned to the right, into town causing a lot of roof damage and tree damage. A lot of houses had shingle and siding damage. The most significant damage occurred on Grove Street, where three houses lost their entire roof structure. Two of the homes experienced partial exterior wall collapses. Damage in this area is consistent with 130 MPH winds. In Lena, the damage footprint in Lena is approximately 1250 yards wide. As the tornado moved to the northeast, damage to farm structures was noted. Even towards the end of the path, the tornado was causing EF1 damage to trees.

.North of Washington Iowa Tornado...

Rating: EF1
Estimated Peak Wind: 105 mph
Path Length /statute/: 5.34 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 100 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 04/17/2026
Start Time: 05:02 PM CDT
Start Location: 4 ENE West Chester / Washington County / IA
Start Lat/Lon: 41.3496 / -91.7455

End Date: 04/17/2026
End Time: 05:10 PM CDT
End Location: 3 SSE Richmond / Washington County / IA
End Lat/Lon: 41.4031 / -91.6721

Survey Summary:

An EF1 tornado with estimated max winds of 100-105 mph begun roughly 4 miles east-northeast of West Chester, IA. Along its 5.3 mile path, it snapped several power poles and tree trunks, along with ripping sheet metal roofs off of farm outbuildings. A semi truck was also tipped over near the intersection of State Highway 1 and 92, which can be associated with a localized wind surge south of the tornado.

.Viola Illinois Tornado...

Rating: EF0
Estimated Peak Wind: 85 mph
Path Length /statute/: 0.95 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 50 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 04/17/2026
Start Time: 06:40 PM CDT
Start Location: 1 SW Viola / Mercer County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 41.198 / -90.5953

End Date: 04/17/2026
End Time: 06:42 PM CDT
End Location: Viola / Mercer County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 41.2059 / -90.5805

Survey Summary:

A brief EF0 tornado passed through Viola, IL, with maximum winds around 85 mph. Much of the damage noted along the short path was done to trees, uprooting and snapping some, with tree tops also sheared off others. Some structural damage was noted in town, where half of a house roof was uplifted with insulation scattered along the tornado path. Damage was also done to the north side of a business's brick facade.

.Denver Illinois Tornado...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 110 mph
Path Length /statute/: 5.7 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 150 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 04/17/2026
Start Time: 06:55 PM CDT
Start Location: 1.7 NE West Point / Hancock County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 40.2718 / -91.1602

End Date: 04/17/2026
End Time: 07:03 PM CDT
End Location: 2.7 NNE Denver / hancock County / IL

End Lat/Lon: 40.3216 / -91.0781

A high-end EF1 tornado developed southwest of Denver IL and tracked through town. Through the path of the tornado, there were dozens of utility poles damaged. When factoring in the rear flank downdraft (RFD), over 50 poles were broken or bent. Many trees were snapped, some in Denver with high concentration. Some structural damage was also seen, largely to facades, windows, and roofs in Denver. In addition to the tornado, a swath of rear flank downdraft (RFD) winds were identified just south of the tornado.

.Northern Henry County Illinois Tornado...

Rating: EF1
Estimated Peak Wind: 100 mph
Path Length /statute/: 0.25 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 50 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 04/17/2026
Start Time: 07:04 PM CDT
Start Location: 3 S Spring Hill / Henry County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 41.5688 / -90.052

End Date: 04/17/2026
End Time: 07:07 PM CDT
End Location: 3 S Spring Hill / Henry County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 41.5715 / -90.0488

Survey Summary:

A short lived EF1 tornado with estimated max winds around 100 mph impacted a farmstead in far northern Henry County Illinois, with max width around 50 yards. Damage was largely noted to a

couple of farm outbuildings and some minor tree damage.

.Colmar Illinois Tornado...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 105 mph
Path Length /statute/: 6.0 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 75 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 04/17/2026
Start Time: 07:13 PM CDT
Start Location: 4.2 E Middle Creek / Hancock County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 40.3701 / -90.9554

End Date: 04/17/2026
End Time: 07:21 PM CDT
End Location: 2.4 ENE Colmar / McDonough County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 40.3491 / -90.8451

An EF-1 tornado starting in Hancock County tracked east-southeast before turning east through western McDonough County. It tracked just north of Colmar. Along the path was concentrated tree snapping, many at the base, and some uprooted. Structural damage was noted at several outbuildings, including one destroyed. Several power poles were snapped or heavily leaning on the nearby railroad track.

.Southern McDonough County Illinois Straight Line Wind...

Peak Wind Estimated: 100 mph
Path Length /statute/: 19.9 miles
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 04/17/2026
Start Time: 07:13 PM CDT
Start Location: 2.8 W Colmar/McDonough/IL
Start Lat/Lon: 40.346, -90.936

End Date: 04/17/2026
End Time: 07:33 PM CDT
End Location: 2.3 NE Industry/McDonough/IL
End Lat/Lon: 40.343, -90.571

Survey Summary:

A swath of 80-100 mph wind gusts was found with a lot of damage to trees, power poles, grain bins, and other structures.

.Industry-Bernadotte Illinois Tornado...

Rating: EF2
Estimated Peak Wind: 115 mph
Path Length /statute/: 12.82 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 200 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 04/17/2026
Start Time: 07:29 PM CDT
Start Location: 2 SSW Pennington Point / McDonough County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 40.364 / -90.5625

End Date: 04/17/2026
End Time: 07:44 PM CDT
End Location: 1 WNW Bernadotte / Fulton County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 40.4099 / -90.3425

Survey Summary:

The tornado began about 3.5 miles northeast of Industry where it did some tree damage followed by snapping of 7 power poles along N 600th Rd. It progressed east between N 600th Rd and N 500th Rd as it produced tree and significant outbuilding damage. The tornado then turned northeast where it did significant tree damage, producing wind speeds around 115 mph. It then crossed into Fulton County along Waters Rd and did roof damage to a home along with more extensive tree damage, snapping off large trees, and destroying a machine shed. It also destroyed a newer grain bin as it moved to the northeast. As it continued to the northeast it likely merged with a newer tornado that came from the south.

.Mendota Illinois Tornado...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 90 mph
Path Length /statute/: 17.2 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 700 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 4/17/2026
Start Time: 8:12 PM CDT
Start Location: 2.3 E Arlington / Bureau County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 41.4646 / -89.2054

End Date: 4/17/2026
End Time: 8:31 PM CDT
End Location: 1.2 miles SW Radley / LaSalle County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 41.6221 / -88.9530

Survey Summary:

An EF1 tornado developed in far eastern Bureau County, with estimated max winds of 90 mph, where a barn sustained roofing damage. The tornado then moved northeast into LaSalle County (WFO

Chicago area), resulting in damage to trees and outbuildings. Further damage was noted to power poles southeast of Mendota, Illinois. Through the remainder of the path, a semi truck was blown over, with more tree and outbuilding damage.

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EF Scale: The Enhanced Fujita Scale classifies tornadoes into the following categories:

EF0.....65 to 85 mph
EF1.....86 to 110 mph
EF2.....111 to 135 mph
EF3.....136 to 165 mph
EF4.....166 to 200 mph
EF5.....>200 mph

NOTE:

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