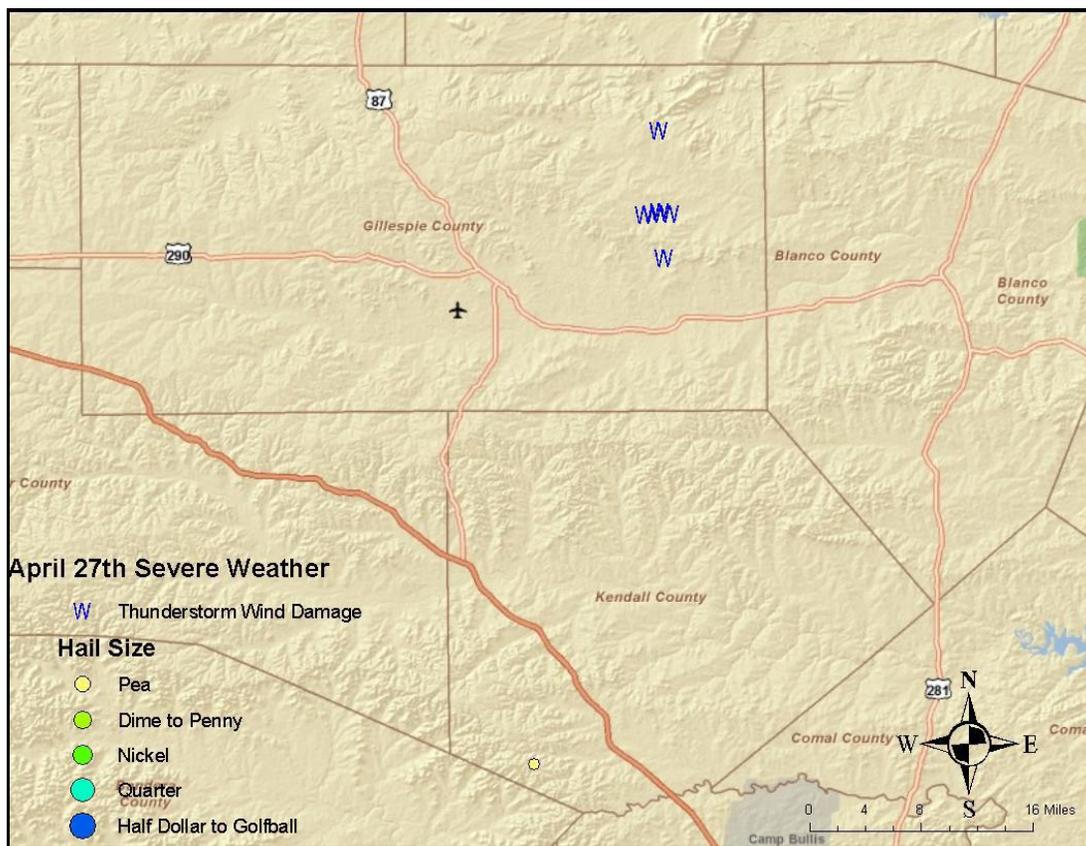


April 27, 2009 Severe Weather Events

A short wave trough and associated jet streak moved across Texas on April 27, 2009, helping to produce damaging winds and two separate tornadoes in three separate severe weather events.

During the early morning hours, a cluster of storms moved east across Gillespie County. This cluster was the remnants of two supercells that had produced severe weather west of the area hours earlier. Between 1:00 and 2:00 am Central Daylight Time (CDT), these storms moved east of Fredericksburg and caused several trees to be uprooted. A National Weather Service (NWS) damage survey estimated microburst winds of 65 to 75 mph about 10 miles east-northeast of Fredericksburg along FM 2721 and FM 1631 near North Grape Creek. Several structures were damaged along with large limbs broken off trees. Most of the uprooted trees were in exposed areas and on hilltops.



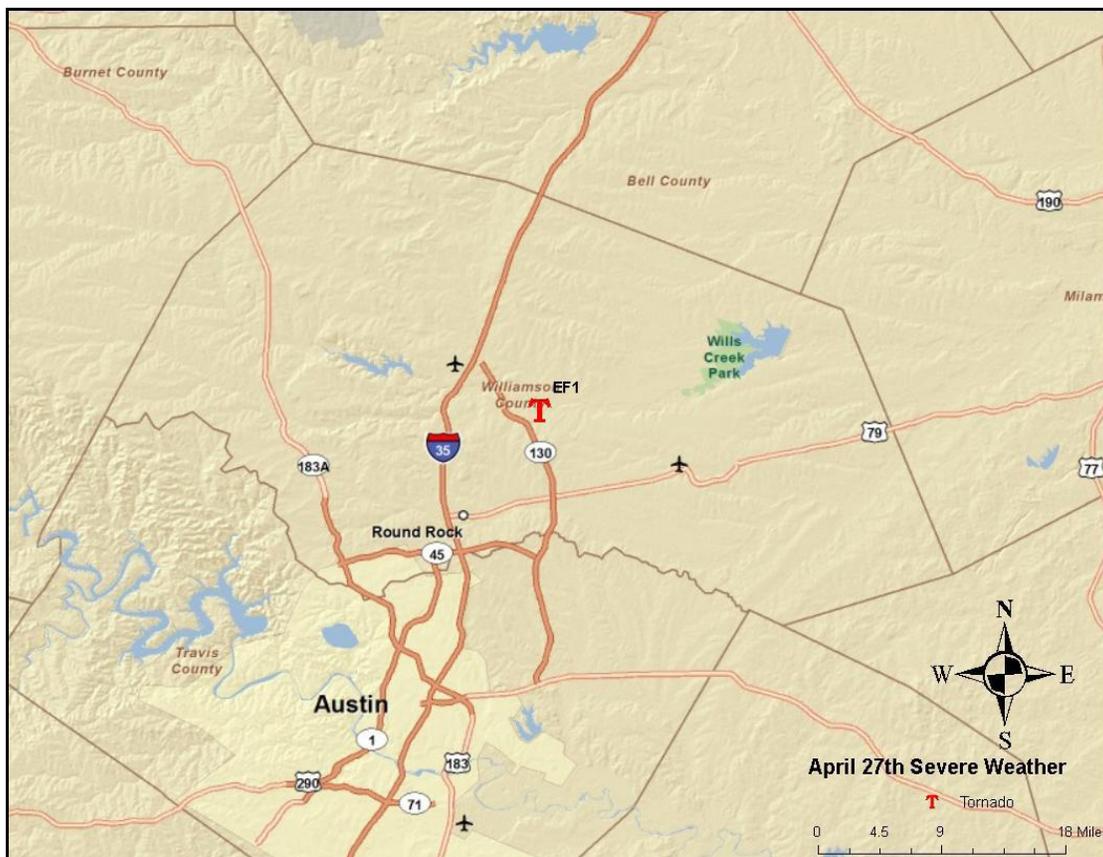
Map of wind damage and one pea-size hail report early on April 27, 2009

Here is a link to the reflectivity radar loop for this part of the event:
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/ewx/wxevent/willowcityz.gif>

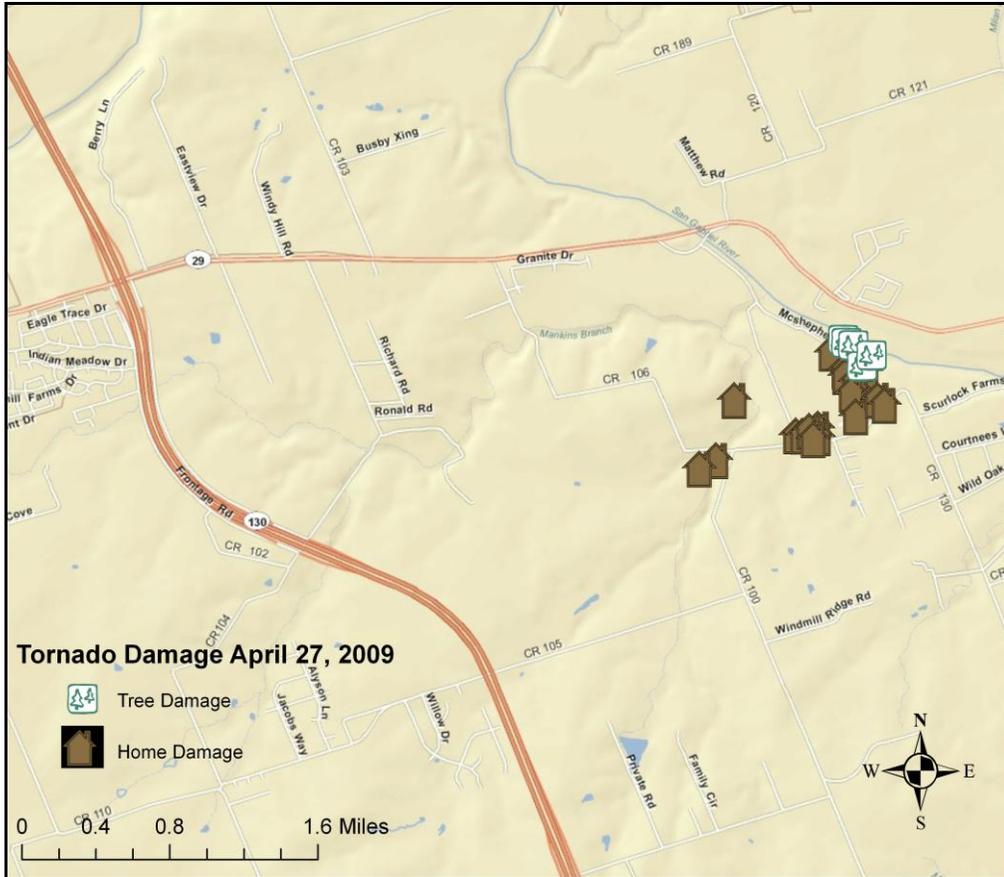
Here is a link to the velocity radar loop for this part of the event:
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/ewx/wxevent/willowcityv.gif>

A second NWS damage survey concluded a tornado touched down around 415 am CDT a few miles west of Jonah in Williamson County. The tornado began one-quarter mile southwest of the intersection of County Roads 100 and 106, then moved northeast across McSheppard Road before weakening near and along Texas Highway 29, one mile west of Jonah. At its peak, the tornado was 50 yards wide and had winds of 85-95 mph, rating the tornado as EF1 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. Over 20 homes were damaged, with the majority of damage occurring to roofing material, outbuildings, and campers. Numerous trees were uprooted and snapped off along the tornado's path. Inflow winds of 50-60 mph into the tornado caused additional tree damage just outside the tornado path.

Here is a link to the radar loop for this part of the event:
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/ewx/wxevent/jonah.gif>



Map indicating the location of the Jonah Tornado on April 27, 2009



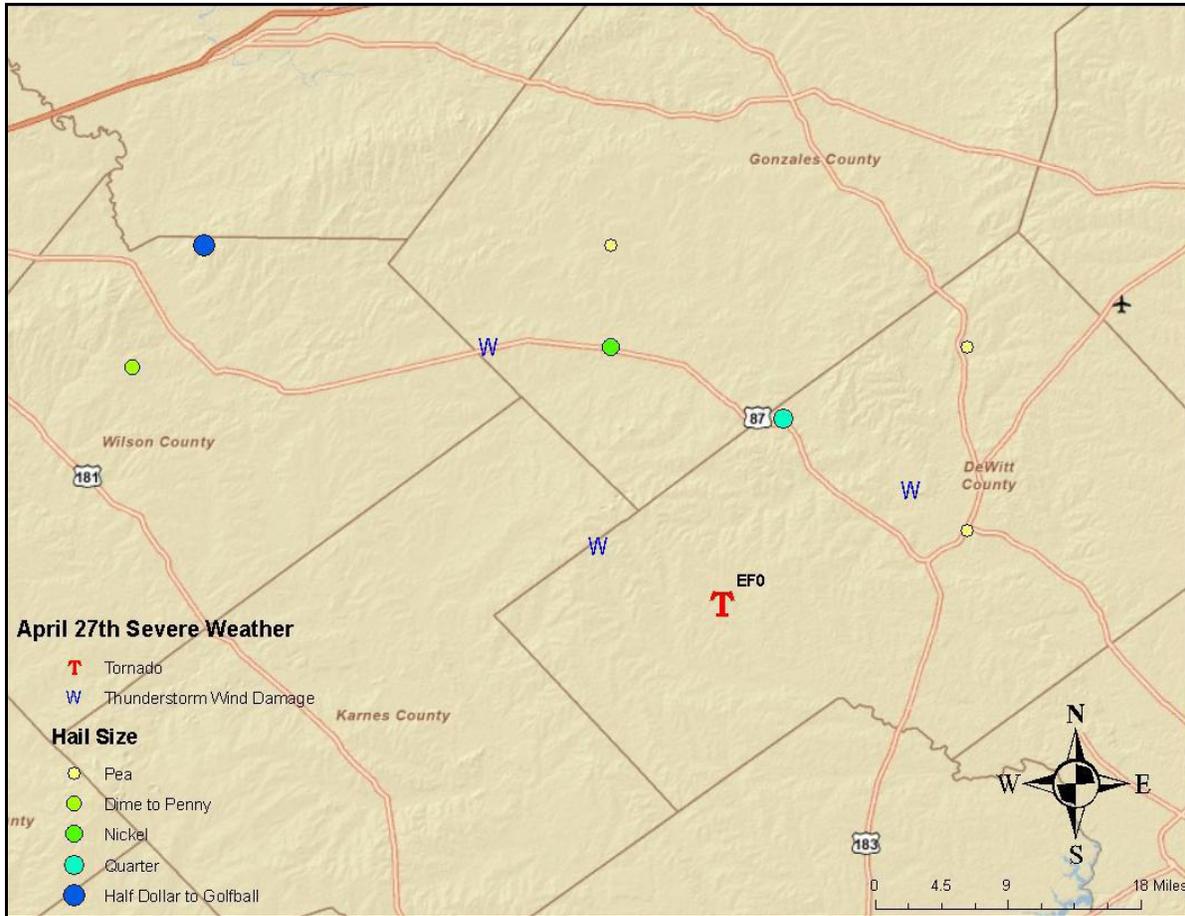
Damage map focused on the area around McShepherd Road



Ladder impacted into the back of a car by the Jonah Tornado

A third NWS Storm Survey Team and the DeWitt County Emergency Management Coordinator assessed damage areas on April 28th, from storms during the late afternoon on April 27th.

Here is a link to the radar loop for this part of the event:
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/ewx/wxevent/dewitt.gif>



Map indicating the location of tornado, wind, and hail damage over the southeast counties on the afternoon of April 27, 2009

A tornado touched down briefly and destroyed the roof of a mobile home three miles north-northwest of Yorktown, TX, on VFW Road. The damage was rated EF0 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale and winds were estimated at 70 to 80 mph.



Damage to the mobile home on VFW Road

A 354-foot tall communications tower was blown down, and the roof of a shed was blown away 11 miles northwest of Yorktown along Muschalek Road. This damage was caused by straight-line winds estimated at 60 and 70 mph.



Toppled 354-foot communications tower near Muschalek Road

There were numerous trees snapped, most of which appeared to be dying/ dead or with shallow roots, approximately four miles northwest of Cuero near FM 953 and Wofford Lane. All of the trees were lying in a south or southeast orientation, suggesting this damage was caused by straight-line winds. There was also damage to a well-built metal building that is used as a barn/machine shed. A large roll-up door was blown in from the northwest, and this damage was consistent with the downed trees, confirming the conclusion that all of the damage was caused by straight-line thunderstorm winds, estimated between 60 and 70 mph.



Example of tree downed near FM 953 and Wofford Lane



Metal building door damaged near FM 953 and Wofford Lane

There were sporadic trees down along FM 953 and Texas Highway 72. All of these were oriented to the south or southeast. A large sheet-metal awning was blown down on the north side of a building at the corner of Main and Riedel Streets in Yorktown. This building damage and all of the downed trees were caused by straight-line thunderstorm winds estimated between 60 and 70 mph.



Metal awning damaged at Main and Riedel streets in Yorktown, TX