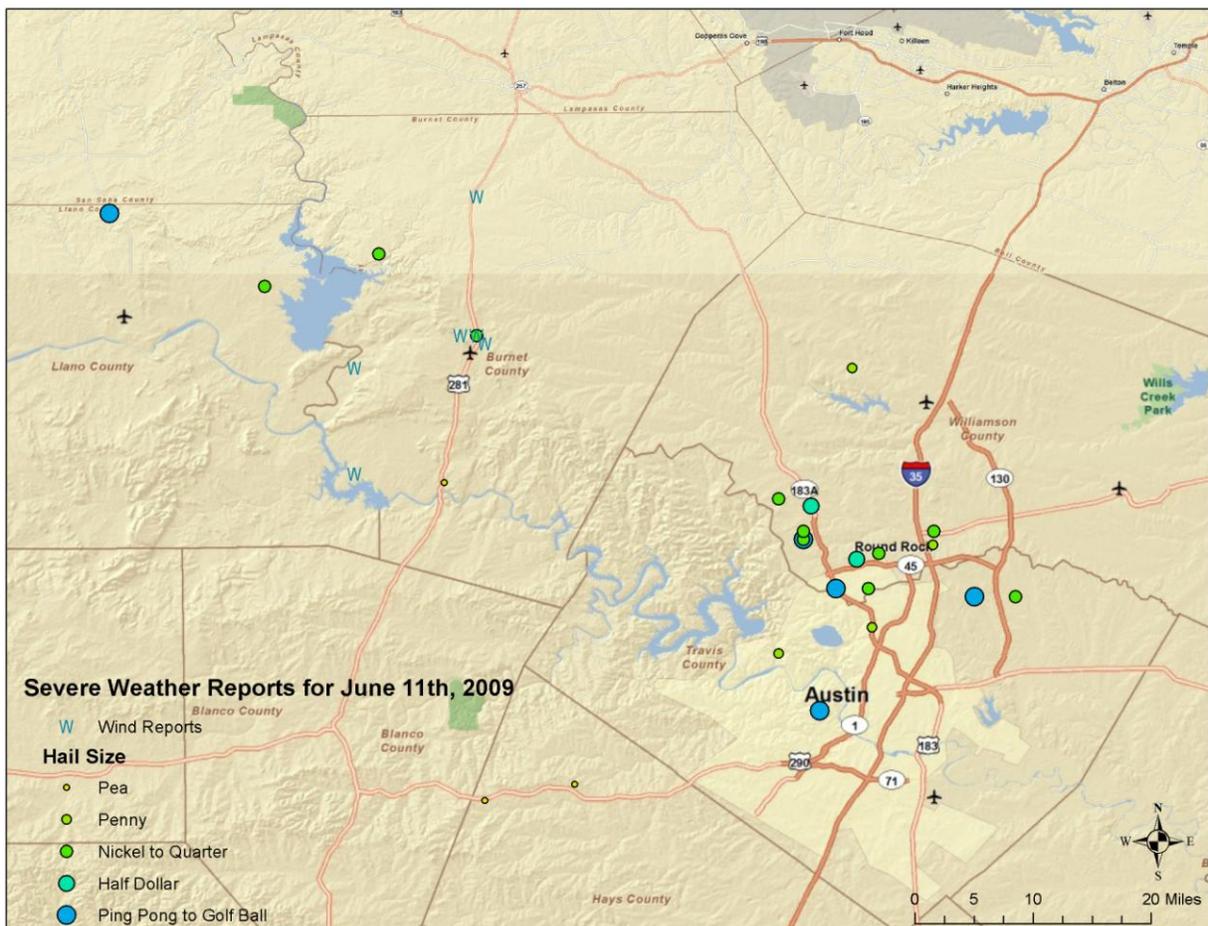


June 11, 2009 Severe Weather Event

On the evening of June 11th 2009, a cluster of severe thunderstorms formed across the northeastern Hill Country and moved south-southeastward into Llano and Burnet counties. The storms then continued southeast into Williamson County and Travis counties before weakening as they crossed Interstate 35. The storms produced golf ball size hail and winds of 60-80 mph. Multiple tornados and funnel clouds were reported in northwestern Austin, but reviewing the evidence of photographs, video, and conducting a damage survey, it was concluded that a tornado did not occur. The funnel cloud/tornado was in fact a scud cloud.



Here is a link to the reflectivity radar loop for this part of the event:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/ewx/wxevent/reflect.gif>

Here is a link to the velocity radar loop for this part of the event:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/ewx/wxevent/velocity.gif>

Some vehicle damage due to hail was reported in Williamson County, but the most significant damage was caused by straight-line microburst winds in Burnet County. Severe thunderstorm winds in excess of 60 mph at the Burnet airport caused multiple aircraft to be damaged, and caused several camper trailers to be flipped and damaged, one was destroyed. Tree damage was also reported throughout the city of Burnet. Businesses in the downtown area lost roofs where winds were estimated to be 60-70mph. The strongest winds were experienced to the east of Burnet in the city of Bertram. Several businesses lost roofs and large trees were uprooted causing damage to vehicles and homes. The winds associated with this damage in Bertram were estimated to be 70-80 mph.





An impressive looking meteorological phenomenon was captured on photographs and video in northwest Austin. What many believed to be a tornado or funnel cloud was a well timed and placed scud cloud. A scud cloud is sometimes a ragged looking cloud that tends to be very low to the ground near thunderstorms and is often associated with the rain cooled air. Because this cloud feature looked like a large funnel cloud and happened to occur while a tornado watch was in effect, it is easy to see how this cloud was mistakenly reported as a tornado. Investigation of the photographs, video footage, and eye witness accounts, concluded that the cloud feature was not rotating. Because the feature was not rotating, and a damage survey of the area could not find any wind damage, the National Weather Service concludes there was no tornado in northwest Austin the evening of June 11. One of the most important things to keep in mind when reporting funnel clouds and tornadoes is that both features need to be attached to the bottom of the storm and show rotation.

