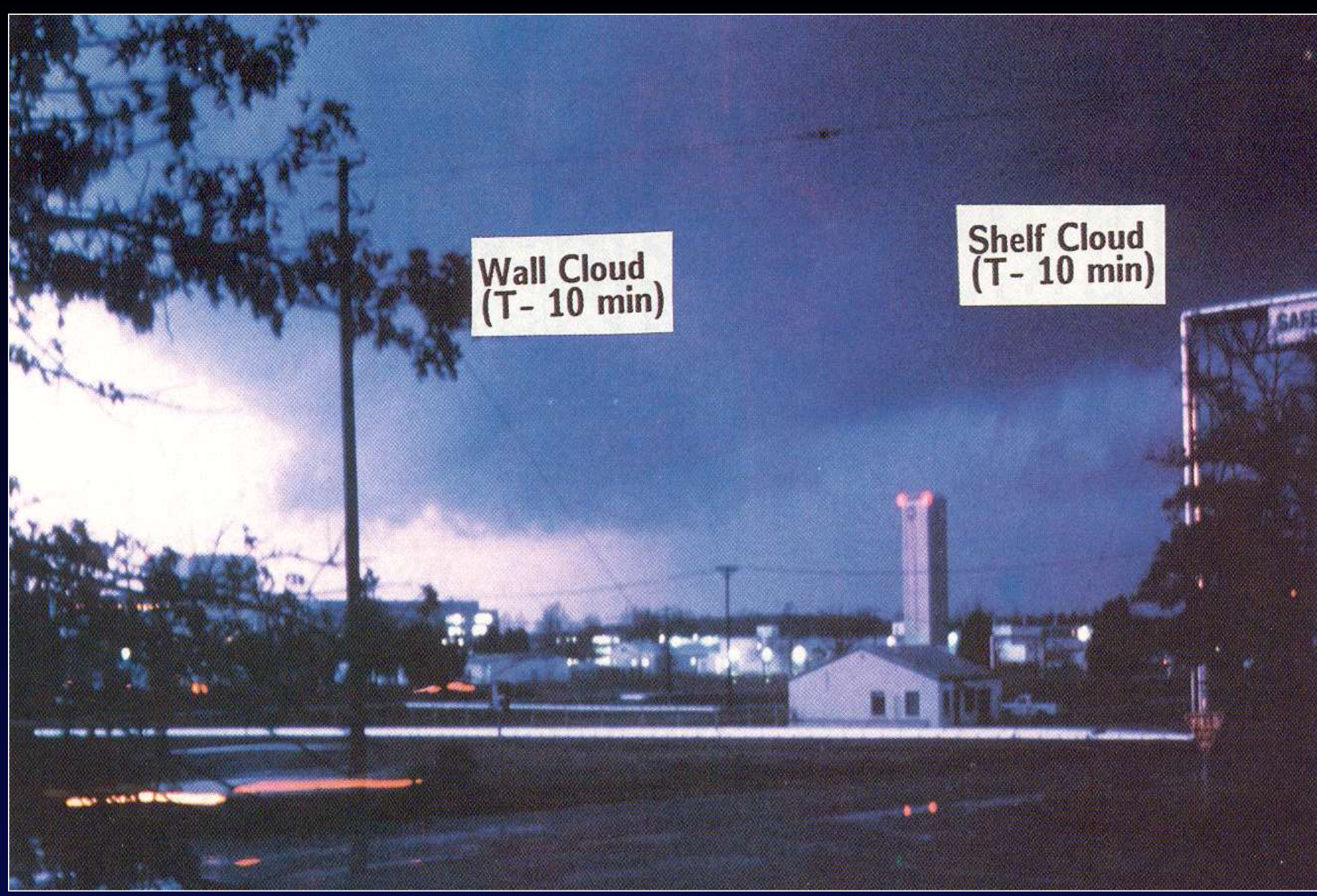


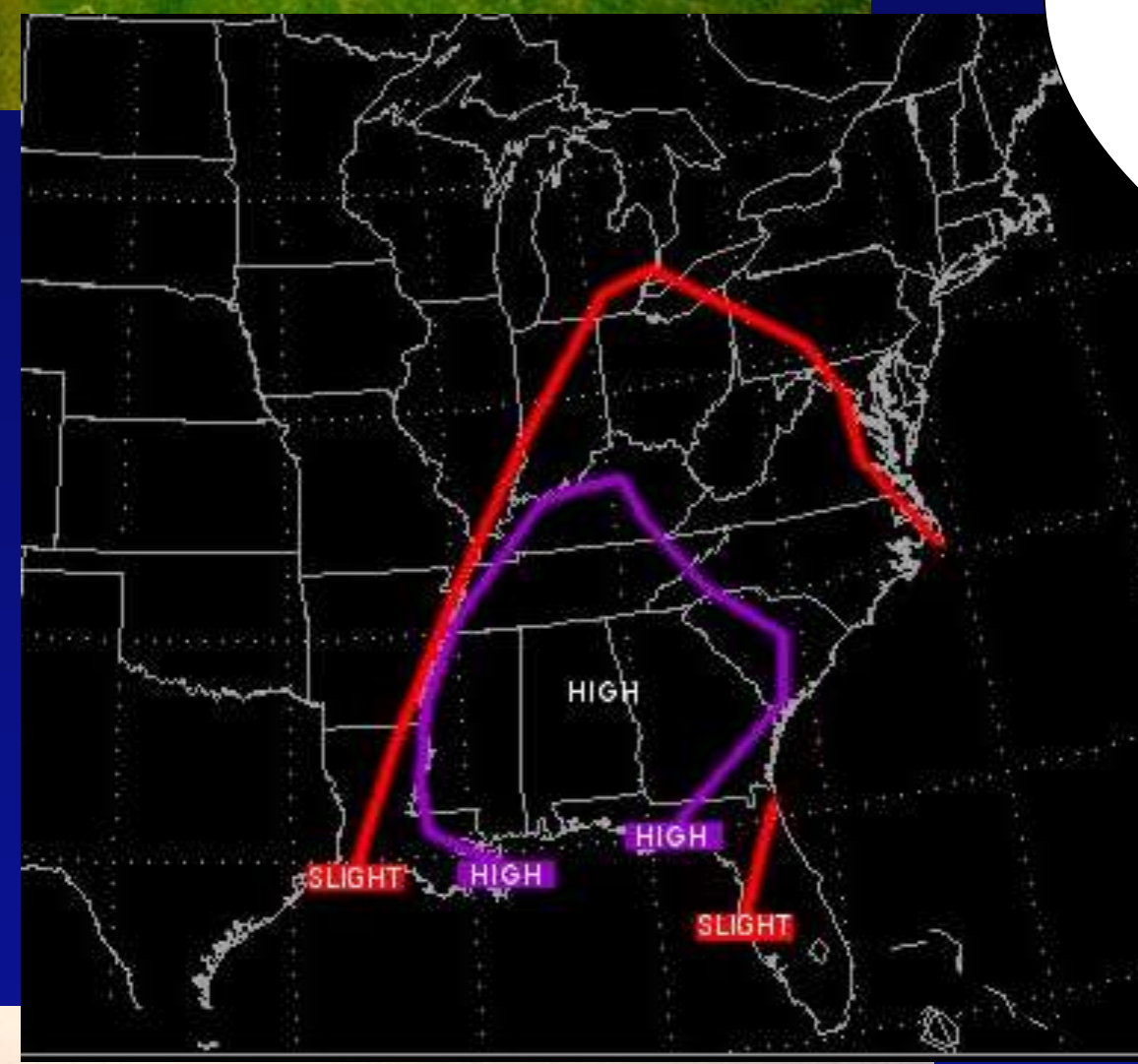
1989

November 15

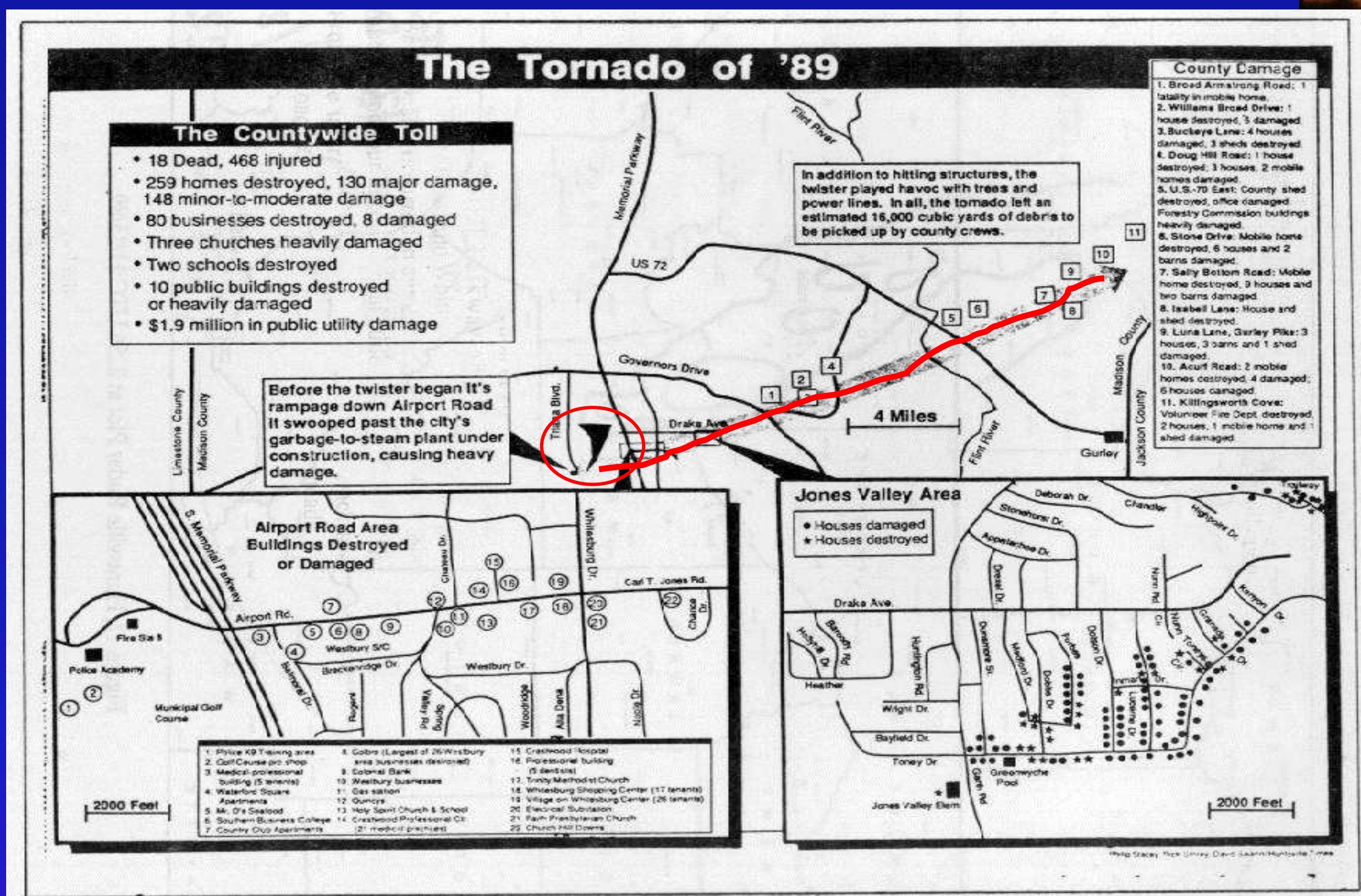
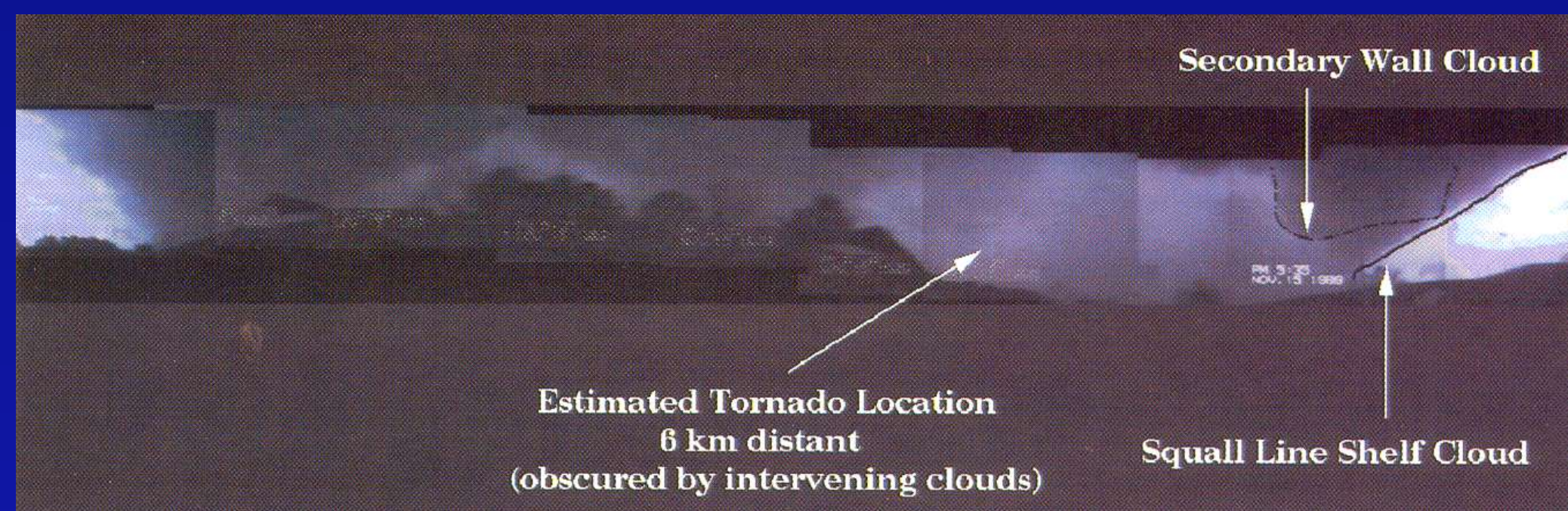


A line of severe thunderstorms moved eastward across the Central and Eastern United States during the afternoon of November 15, 1989. At 4:30 PM that day, as much of Huntsville's workforce headed home, a powerful tornado plowed through the heart of the city. The F4 tornado carved an 18.5 mile long path across Madison County, devastating everything in its path and causing an estimated \$250 million in damages. There were 21 fatalities and 463 injuries.

The tornado touched down near the Huntsville Steam plant on Triana Boulevard and proceeded down the heavily traveled Airport Road. An apartment complex was badly damaged, as was Trinity United Methodist Church. Before dissipating, the tornado leveled Jones Valley Elementary School. Luckily, the students in the after-school program were unhurt. Huntsville had just seen its worst weather disaster ever after the fury of 250 mph winds cut through the city.



TORNADO



"Ever since I can remember, stories were told about tornadoes. Behavior in the area has been shaped by our consciousness of the weather, especially tornadoes. It has just become part of our culture."

US Representative Bud Cramer

Huntsville