



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
National Weather Service  
Greater Cincinnati Airport  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45275

Date: April 9, 1974  
Reply to  
Attn of: MIC, WSO, CVG  
Subject: Preliminary Tornado Report  
To: ERH, Attn: WFE 8x3

1. Chronological account of warnings and statements issued.....  
specific dissemination of warnings....and reports on which warnings  
were based.

April 3 - 4, 1974

10:50 am EDT Special Weather Statement.....thunderstorms with  
heavy rain and locally strong winds during next hour  
in Hamilton and Butler counties in Ohio.....based on  
CVG Radar.

11:10 am EDT Weather Radar and Special Weather Statement.....  
line of thundershowers moving over the Cincinnati,  
Hamilton, and Middletown metropolitan areas during  
the next hour.....based on CVG Radar.

11:35 am EDT Special Radar Statement and Weather Summary.....  
heavy thunderstorms in Hamilton and Butler counties  
in Ohio.....general storms over portions of Kentucky  
and Indiana.....based on CVG Radar.

12:10 pm EDT Special Weather Statement.....thunderstorms over SE  
Indiana, Hamilton and Butler counties in Ohio...based  
on CVG Radar.

12:35 pm EDT Special Weather Statement.....thunderstorms over  
Butler and Warren counties in Ohio....based on CVG  
Radar.

1:10 pm EDT Special Weather Statement.....thunderstorms moved  
east of Hamilton, Butler, and Warren counties in  
Ohio.....based on CVG Radar.

4:00 pm EDT Tornado Warning.....valid until 5:00 pm for persons  
in Butler and Warren counties in Ohio.....based on  
hook echoes on WSO CVG Radar and reports of funnels  
in SE Indiana along the Ohio River heard over the  
Indiana NAWAS.

- 4:05 pm EDT Tornado Warning.....valid until 5:15 pm EDT for Boone County, Kentucky and Hamilton County in Ohio....based again on hook echoes on CVG Radar and Indiana NAWAS reports of funnels.
- 4:20 pm EDT Tornado Warning.....valid until 5:20 pm EDT for Franklin County, Indiana....based on hook echo on CVG Radar and funnel reports on the Indiana NAWAS.
- 4:45 pm EDT Tornado Warning.....valid until 5:45 pm EDT for Switzerland, Ohio, and Dearborn counties in Indiana, Hamilton and Clermont counties in Ohio, and Boone County in Kentucky....based on hook echoes on CVG Radar.
- 5:30 pm EDT Special Weather Statement.....hook-shaped echo 11 miles SW of CVG....based on CVG Radar.
- 5:35 - 5:45 pm EDT - WSS Ivan Winterberg on telephone with WCKY Radio giving blow by blow description of tornado moving west of the airport through Boone County, KY into Hamilton County, Ohio.....visual observation.
- 5:40 pm EDT Power Outage.....loss of teletype, radar, incoming telephones, and Indiana and Kentucky NAWAS. Partial loss of Ohio NAWAS. Almost complete breakdown of communications. Chance discovery that outgoing calls could be made via telephones and very weak reception available on Ohio NAWAS.
- 5:45 pm EDT PA John Robinson called the three major network TV stations in the Cincinnati area informing them of last position of the tornado in Boone and Hamilton counties.....based on last visual CVG Radar observation.
- 5:45 - 5:50 pm EDT - Phone calls to radio stations in Boone and Hamilton counties....stations WLYK (Milford), WHKK (Erlanger), and WCNW (Fairfield).....last tornado location and movement.....based on last CVG Radar observation.
- 6:30 pm EDT Tornado Warning.....called WSFO CLE and had them relay a warning for Hamilton County in Ohio and Boone County in Kentucky.....valid until 7:30 pm EDT..... based on FAA CVG Radar.
- 7:00 pm EDT Tornado Warning.....called WSFO CLE and had them relay a warning for Clermont County in Ohio valid until 8:00 pm EDT.....based on pilot report of funnel aloft in Campbell County, KY and FAA Radar.
- 8:53 pm EDT Power back on.

- 9:15 pm EDT     Severe Thunderstorm Warning.....valid until 10:30 pm EDT for Boone, Kenton, and Campbell Counties in KY and Hamilton and Clermont counties in Ohio.....based on WSS Kenneth Dixon report of 3/4" hail in southern Kenton County and CVG Radar.
  
- 10:30 pm EDT     Tornado Warning.....valid until 11:30 pm EDT for Brown, Adams, and Highland counties in Ohio.....based on hook echo over Falmouth, Kentucky observed on CVG Radar.
  
- 10:30 pm EDT     Special Weather Statement.....general thunderstorm statement for Tri-State area.....based on CVG Radar.
  
- 11:35 pm EDT     Special Weather Statement and Weather Radar Summary  
Tri-State radar summary of strong echoes...based on CVG Radar.
  
- 12:20 am EDT     Tornado Warning.....valid until 1:20 am EDT for Hamilton County in Ohio, Switzerland and Dearborn counties in Indiana, and northern Boone County in Kentucky.....based on hook echo observed on CVG Radar.
  
- 12:35 am EDT     Severe Weather Statement and Weather Radar Summary  
general strong echo report for Ohio and Kentucky.....based on CVG Radar.
  
- 1:15 am EDT     Severe Weather Bulletin.....cancellation of Tornado Warning.....based on CVG Radar.
  
- 2:35 am EDT     Severe Weather Statement and Weather Radar Summary  
general heavy thunderstorm summary for the Tri-State area.....based on CVG Radar.

2. Copies of Warnings and Statements issued.....copies of appropriate pages of Warning Logs and Station operation logs. Copies of warnings, station operation log, and radar logs attached. NAWAS, telephone, and most of radar contacts not documented.....time was of essence.....effectiveness of warnings indicates a superb coordination job was accomplished.

3. Update on fatalities, injuries, and damage in County Warning Area.

<u>Ohio Counties</u>	<u>Fatalities</u>	<u>Injuries</u>	<u>Damage</u>
Adams	1	5	\$500,000
Brown	0	0	0
Butler	0	8	\$13,790,000
Warren	0	40	\$8,000,000
Hamilton	4	199	\$50,000,000

Clinton	0	0	0
Highland	0	0	0
Pike	0	0	0
Scioto	0	0	0
Clermont	0	0	0
<u>Kentucky Counties</u>			
Boone	0	20	\$5,000,000
Kenton	0	0	0
Campbell	0	0	0
<u>Indiana Counties</u>			
Franklin	2	9	\$800,000
Dearborn	0	14	\$300,000
Ohio	0	30	\$3,000,000
Switzerland	0	6	\$1,000,000
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Total	7	331	\$82,390,000

4. Other Relevant Information:

Power outage from 5:40 pm EDT until 8:53 pm EDT primary reason for lack of warnings and statements during that time period. Fortunately, the extremely critical period between 4:30 pm EDT and 5:45 pm EDT was well covered in advance by warnings which had alerted almost the entire warning area to the possibility of severe weather. Enough credit cannot be given to the WSR-57 at CVG and the men on duty.....the performance of the radar while power was available and the warnings issued saved many lives.