

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Chicago IL
1050 AM CDT Thu Apr 13 2023 /1150 AM EDT Thu Apr 13 2023/

...NWS Damage Survey for 03/31/2023 Tornado Event Update #9...

This Public Information Statement update summarizes the findings of the damage surveys that were conducted in the NWS Chicago forecast area for the March 31st severe weather event. A total of 22 tornadoes were confirmed, which leaves 3/31/2023 tied with 6/30/2014 as the calendar date with the most tornadoes to occur within the NWS Chicago forecast area since official NWS tornado records began in 1950. The 22 tornadoes include 1 EF-U, 6 EF-0, 12 EF-1, and 3 EF-2 tornadoes.

Unless new information that changes the outcome of one or more of our storm surveys comes to light in the coming days, it is expected that this will be the final Public Information Statement issued by our office for this severe weather event.

We thank all of our partners, followers, and the general public for relaying damage reports to us and for their assistance with these damage surveys!

...Confirmed Tornadoes...

Below is a chronological listing of the 22 tornadoes that were confirmed in the NWS Chicago forecast area on 3/31/2023.

.Pontiac Area/Central Livingston County...

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Rating: | EF-U |
| Estimated Peak Wind: | Unknown |
| Path Length /statute/: | 0.03 miles |
| Path Width /maximum/: | 15 yards |
| Fatalities: | 0 |
| Injuries: | 0 |
| Start Date: | 03/31/2023 |
| Start Time: | 04:05 PM CDT |
| Start Location: | 4 ESE Cornell / Livingston County / IL |
| Start Lat/Lon: | 40.9559 / -88.6529 |
| End Date: | 03/31/2023 |
| End Time: | 04:05 PM CDT |
| End Location: | 4 ESE Cornell / Livingston County / IL |
| End Lat/Lon: | 40.9562 / -88.6525 |

Survey Summary:

This brief tornado occurred north of Pontiac, IL and was captured on video by a storm chaser. It was on the ground for about 10 seconds, only kicking up some dirt before it lifted. Since the tornado did not produce any damage, it has been assigned an EF-Unknown (EF-U) rating.

.Deer Grove Area/Southwest Lee County...

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Rating: | EF-1 |
| Estimated Peak Wind: | 110 mph |
| Path Length /statute/: | 13.9 miles |

Path Width /maximum/: 150 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 06:48 PM CDT
Start Location: 6 SW Deer Grove / Bureau County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 41.5529 / -89.7711

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 07:00 PM CDT
End Location: 6 NW Ohio / Lee County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 41.6287 / -89.5229

Survey Summary:

This tornado began just south of Illinois Highway 92 in northwest Bureau County in the NWS Quad Cities County Warning Area. It then tracked through far southeast Whiteside County within 3 miles of the town of Deer Grove. This tornado would continue for 6 additional miles into southwest Lee County, where it dissipated near Maytown Road and Atkinson Road. The damage from this tornado included numerous heavily damaged outbuildings, several snapped power poles, and dozens of trees. The worst damage was to a large farmstead outbuilding along the Whiteside and Bureau County border, with the roof and two of the four walls destroyed and debris slung well into a field.

.Lanark to Baileyville...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 100 mph
Path Length /statute/: 11.1 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 200 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 06:50 PM CDT
Start Location: 3 ESE Lanark / Carroll County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 42.0815 / -89.7525

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 07:02 PM CDT
End Location: 3 WNW Baileyville / Stephenson County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 42.2142 / -89.6399

Survey Summary:

This tornado began southeast of Lanark in Carroll County and tracked into northwestern Lee County before lifting shortly after crossing Montague Rd into Stephenson County west of Baileyville. This tornado caused extensive damage to several farm buildings and also downed a few trees along its path.

.Amboy Area Including Woodhaven Lakes Campground...

Rating: EF-2
Estimated Peak Wind: 115 mph
Path Length /statute/: 9.5 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 350 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 07:08 PM CDT
Start Location: 4 SSE Amboy / Lee County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 41.6508 / -89.3128

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 07:18 PM CDT
End Location: 3 NNW West Brooklyn / Lee County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 41.7302 / -89.1674

Survey Summary:

This tornado began in the Woodhaven Lakes campground and tracked across U.S. Highway 52 between Amboy and Sublette. This tornado produced substantial and concentrated tree damage along its track, with several dozen large trees snapped and many branches sheared off. Damage was clearly in a convergent pattern. Multiple campers were damaged, including at least two rolled, in the Woodhaven Lakes campground. Farther along in its path, there were two trees downed on one homestead that was basically demolished. Another nearby homestead had a large garage completely destroyed. The tornado gradually waned in intensity as it crossed Shaw Rd, causing minor damage to an additional outbuilding before lifting as it reached Butler Hill Rd.

.Sublette to West Brooklyn...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 95 mph
Path Length /statute/: 7.8 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 75 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 07:14 PM CDT
Start Location: 0.5 S Sublette / Lee County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 41.6381 / -89.2287

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 07:21 PM CDT
End Location: 2 NE West Brooklyn / Lee County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 41.7106 / -89.1141

Survey Summary:

This tornado appeared to begin just south of Sublette as it crossed U.S. Highway 52, snapping multiple wooden utility poles. This tornado then increased in intensity as it entered the community of West Brooklyn. It downed several large trees, tore the roof of a bank in downtown, and folded an approximately 120 ft tall tower. One of the wooden beams from the roof of the bank was impaled into a garage roof to its north-northeast. This tornado weakened prior to crossing Illinois Highway 251.

.Davis Junction to Belvidere...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 100 mph
Path Length /statute/: 27.7 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 600 yards
Fatalities: 1

Injuries: 40

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 07:24 PM CDT
Start Location: 2 SE Stillman Valley / Ogle County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 42.0723 / -89.1478

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 07:49 PM CDT
End Location: 4 S Capron / Boone County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 42.3296 / -88.7382

Survey Summary:

The Davis Junction to Belvidere tornado touched down in the northeast portion of Ogle County southwest of Davis Junction at 724 PM CDT. The tornado tracked northeast through the village of Davis Junction where it caused generally EF-0 damage with isolated EF-1 damage to a single family home on the north side of town. The tornado continued northeast into southeastern Winnebago County, causing generally EF-0 damage to multiple farms as the tornado reached its widest extent of about 600 yards. The tornado then continued into Boone County causing damage to farms. As the tornado neared Belvidere, the width decreased to about a quarter of a mile but briefly intensified near the central business district. Peak winds estimated at about 100 mph occurred at the Apollo Theatre, where a portion of the roof collapsed, causing 1 fatality and 40 injuries. The tornado continued northeast into rural areas of Boone County, causing EF-0 damage until lifting near Orth Road and Capron Road at about 7:49 PM CDT.

.Rockford...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 95 mph
Path Length /statute/: 5.9 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 300 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 07:31 PM CDT
Start Location: 1 SE Rockford / Winnebago County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 42.2580 / -89.0796

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 07:38 PM CDT
End Location: 1 SSE Loves Park / Winnebago County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 42.3172 / -88.9995

Survey Summary:

This tornado touched down about 1 mile southeast of downtown Rockford southwest of the intersection of Railroad Ave and 8th St. It then tracked northeastward through the city of Rockford for about 7 minutes and just under 6 miles before lifting as it approached the intersection of Riverside Blvd and Mulford Rd. The tornado caused widespread tree damage, which was most concentrated at and near the Sinnissippi Golf Course, where the tornado reached its peak width of about 300 yards. Most structural damage was caused by trees that were uprooted and fell onto houses, but the tornado itself did also cause mostly minor roof damage to multiple homes.

.Machesney Park to Roscoe...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 100 mph
Path Length /statute/: 8.7 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 300 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 07:34 PM CDT
Start Location: 4 SW Machesney Park / Winnebago County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 42.3239 / -89.1053

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 07:42 PM CDT
End Location: Roscoe / Winnebago County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 42.4235 / -89.0033

Survey Summary:

This tornado began southwest of the intersection of Elmwood Rd and Rockton Ave and tracked northeastward for almost 9 miles, straddling the Rock River as it tracked through the west side of Machesney Park before weakening and lifting over Roscoe. This tornado caused damage to several trees and outbuildings, as well as multiple homes, which primarily suffered roof damage. A couple of homes had entire portions of their roofs removed where the tornado was at its peak intensity and featured 90-100 mph winds.

.Caledonia, IL to Delavan Lake, WI...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 95 mph
Path Length /statute/: 25.6 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 150 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 07:38 PM CDT
Start Location: 4 WSW Poplar Grove / Boone County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 42.3489 / -88.9027

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 08:11 PM CDT
End Location: 2 NE Delavan Lake / Walworth County / WI
End Lat/Lon: 42.6272 / -88.5905

Survey Summary:

The most extensive damage that this tornado caused was to a farm east of Caledonia on IL-173. Numerous outbuildings were destroyed along its track in Boone County. Additionally, a silo was heavily damaged and a grain bin collapsed. The rest of the path in Illinois consisted of tree damage and occasional light damage to farm outbuildings. There were also a few homes near Candlewick Lake southeast of Caledonia that sustained roof and siding damage. The tornado then continued into Wisconsin, where it went through rural areas, mainly causing damage to roofing materials on a few barns. The tornado may have briefly weakened before going through the southern end of Delavan Lake, where it knocked down a number of large trees. The tornado then lifted near the Lake Lawn Resort.

.Montgomery to Aurora...

Rating: EF-0
Estimated Peak Wind: 80 mph
Path Length /statute/: 5.6 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 200 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 07:55 PM CDT
Start Location: 3 WSW Montgomery / Kendall County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 41.7124 / -88.3913

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 08:01 PM CDT
End Location: 2 SSE Aurora / Kane County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 41.7381 / -88.2884

Survey Summary:

This tornado began near the intersection of Concord Drive and Columbia Lane in Montgomery and tracked northeast over the Fox River before dissipating near Phillips Park in Aurora. The tornado caused minor damage to an outbuilding shortly after onset, but most of the damage was confined to trees and consistent with wind speeds of 80 mph. There was also evidence of straight line wind damage to trees near the tornado path.

.Rankin to Wellington...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 97 mph
Path Length /statute/: 16.2 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 300 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 7:57 PM CDT
Start Location: 4 SSW Rankin / Vermilion County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 40.4050 / -87.9244

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 8:15 PM CDT
End Location: 1 N Wellington / Iroquois County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 40.5489 / -87.6778

Survey Summary:

A tornado formed over the northwest part of Vermilion County near CR-3800N with the first visible damage of uprooted trees and a nearby shed at CR-3800N and 170E occurring at approximately 7:57 PM CDT. There was a consistent path of destruction and indicators, including distinct swirls over roads in a line from 4 SSW Rankin to 1 N Wellington.

.Batavia...

Rating: EF-0
Estimated Peak Wind: 85 mph

Path Length /statute/: 1.6 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 225 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 08:00 PM CDT
Start Location: 1 WSW Batavia / Kane County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 41.8414 / -88.3321

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 08:02 PM CDT
End Location: Batavia / Kane County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 41.8511 / -88.3039

Survey Summary:

This tornado began in an open field south of Engstrom Family Park and tracked east-northeast towards downtown Batavia before lifting shortly after it crossed the Fox River near Wilson St. Damage along the tornado's path consisted of several uprooted and damaged trees, downed fences, downed power lines, roof shingles peeled off of houses, and a toppled chimney.

.St. Charles...

Rating: EF-0
Estimated Peak Wind: 85 mph
Path Length /statute/: 1.7 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 150 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 08:01 PM CDT
Start Location: 1 W St. Charles / Kane County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 41.9149 / -88.3339

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 08:03 PM CDT
End Location: 1 NNW St. Charles / Kane County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 41.9268 / -88.3058

Survey Summary:

This tornado began south of Dean St near 15th St and tracked northeast, passing over Boy Scout Island and the Fox River before lifting shortly after it crossed Illinois Route 25. Damage along the tornado's path consisted of several uprooted and damaged trees, downed power lines, roof shingles peeled off of houses, and a damaged HVAC unit on the roof of a construction facility.

.Joliet...

Rating: EF-0
Estimated Peak Wind: 85 mph
Path Length /statute/: 4.7 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 250 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 08:04 PM CDT

Start Location: 11 WNW Joliet / Kendall County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 41.5395 / -88.2935

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 08:07 PM CDT
End Location: 7 WNW Joliet / Will County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 41.5562 / -88.2051

Survey Summary:

This tornado began near the intersection of Arbeiter and Black roads in eastern Kendall County and damaged several homes in neighborhoods, causing shingle damage and the collapse of a chimney. A trampoline was also thrown into a tree. The tornado then crossed into Will County, causing additional damage to shingles and trees near Troy Middle School. The tornado lifted shortly before reaching Illinois Route 59, but straight-line wind damage continued farther to the east past Interstate 55.

.Plainfield...

Rating: EF-0
Estimated Peak Wind: 80 mph
Path Length /statute/: 1.6 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 125 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 08:05 PM CDT
Start Location: 2 NW Plainfield / Will County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 41.6366 / -88.2351

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 08:06 PM CDT
End Location: 2 N Plainfield / Will County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 41.6410 / -88.2051

Survey Summary:

The tornado began near W 135th Street just west of Meadow Lane and tracked east northeast before weakening near Illinois Route 59. The damage was confined to primarily trees, but some shingles and siding were removed from homes along the path, consistent with the 80 mph EF-0 rating.

.Lombard to Addison...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 95 mph
Path Length /statute/: 1.6 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 175 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 08:17 PM CDT
Start Location: 2 N Lombard / DuPage County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 41.9072 / -88.0178

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 08:19 PM CDT
End Location: 1 SSW Addison / DuPage County / IL

End Lat/Lon: 41.9209 / -87.9935

Survey Summary:

This tornado began in an industrial park on the far north side of Lombard where it caused roof damage to a couple of buildings. It then tracked into Addison, where security camera footage from a fire station captured it causing roof damage to nearby office buildings. The tornado then caused primarily tree damage as it tracked across a residential area of Addison south of Fullerton Ave before lifting as it crossed Fullerton Ave at Hale St. To the south and east of the tornado's track, a wider swath of damage caused by straight-line winds of up to approximately 85 mph was noted. This damage included additional instances of roof damage to office buildings, a large portion of a roof peeled off an apartment complex, a semi truck blown over on I-290, and damage to a billboard and brick sound barriers along I-290.

.Stockland Area...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 95 mph
Path Length /statute/: 4.8 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 300 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 08:20 PM CDT
Start Location: 2 SSW Stockland / Iroquois County / IL
Start Lat/Lon: 40.5720 / -87.6122

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 08:24 PM CDT
End Location: 2 ESE Stockland / Iroquois County / IL
End Lat/Lon: 40.6117 / -87.5363

Survey Summary:

Brief tornado occurred south of Stockland causing damage to trees, power poles, and leading to the destruction of at least one small farm outbuilding.

.Oxford to Round Grove...

Rating: EF-2
Estimated Peak Wind: 115 mph
Path Length /statute/: 15.3 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 500 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 08:33 PM CDT / 09:33 PM EDT
Start Location: 2 WNW Oxford / Benton County / IN
Start Lat/Lon: 40.5330 / -87.2830

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 08:47 PM CDT / 09:47 PM EDT
End Location: 4 NW Badger Grove / White County / IN
End Lat/Lon: 40.6273 / -87.0251

Survey Summary:

This tornado primarily downed trees and power poles and damaged farm outbuildings. However, the tornado also caused damage to a few homes, two of which were significantly damaged.

.Fowler Area...

Rating: EF-2
Estimated Peak Wind: 120 mph
Path Length /statute/: 11.7 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 400 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 08:33 PM CDT / 09:33 PM EDT
Start Location: 2 S Fowler / Benton County / IN
Start Lat/Lon: 40.5780 / -87.3237

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 08:42 PM CDT / 09:42 PM EDT
End Location: 4 SSW Remington / Benton County / IN
End Lat/Lon: 40.6962 / -87.1686

Survey Summary:

This tornado damaged a few homes and multiple wind turbines, including one wind turbine that was snapped about halfway up. This tornado also downed trees and power poles along its 11.7 mile path.

.Remington Area...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 105 mph
Path Length /statute/: 10.3 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 500 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 08:41 PM CDT / 09:41 PM EDT
Start Location: 3 SSE Goodland / Benton County / IN
Start Lat/Lon: 40.7125 / -87.2775

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 08:50 PM CDT / 09:50 PM EDT
End Location: 3 ENE Remington / Jasper County / IN
End Lat/Lon: 40.7705 / -87.0993

Survey Summary:

Most of the damage caused by this tornado consisted of snapped power poles, downed trees, and damage to small farm outbuildings.

.Merrillville to Hobart...

Rating: EF-1
Estimated Peak Wind: 100 mph
Path Length /statute/: 3.3 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 250 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 08:53 PM CDT
Start Location: 2 W Merrillville / Lake County / IN
Start Lat/Lon: 41.4779 / -87.3562

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 08:56 PM CDT
End Location: 2 NE Merrillville / Lake County / IN
End Lat/Lon: 41.4843 / -87.2945

Survey Summary:

This tornado touched down north of U.S. Route 30 near Grant St. in Merrillville and then tracked eastward for roughly 3.3 miles before lifting over the far south side of Hobart. The tornado blew out windows and tore sections of roofs off of multiple homes where its winds were able to compromise the residences' garage doors. The tornado also caused damage to power lines and several trees along its path.

.Shorewood Forest Area...

Rating: EF-0
Estimated Peak Wind: 70 mph
Path Length /statute/: 0.6 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 125 yards
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: 03/31/2023
Start Time: 09:01 PM CDT
Start Location: 5 SE Hobart / Porter County / IN
Start Lat/Lon: 41.4853 / -87.1956

End Date: 03/31/2023
End Time: 09:02 PM CDT
End Location: 5 SSW South Haven / Porter County / IN
End Lat/Lon: 41.4819 / -87.1846

Survey Summary:

This brief tornado damaged trees, outbuildings, and farm equipment over its short 0.6 mile long track.

...Other Surveyed Locations...

Damage in the following locations was also surveyed and was assessed to have been caused by strong straight-line winds of varying intensities ranging from 65 to 90 mph. It is possible that tornadoes did occur in some of these locations, but there was not enough evidence present to officially make that determination.

- Durand, IL area
- Shirland/Rockton, IL area
- Rochelle, IL
- Mendota, IL area
- DeKalb, IL
- Lee/Shabbona, IL area
- Somonauk, IL
- Maple Park, IL area
- Harvard, IL area
- Union, IL area
- North Aurora and west side of Aurora, IL

-Romeoville, IL
-Lockport, IL
-Channahon, IL
-Frankfort, Richton Park, and Park Forest, IL
-Portage, IN
-Valparaiso, IN

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

EF-0...Weak.....65 to 85 mph
EF-1...Weak.....86 to 110 mph
EF-2...Strong....111 to 135 mph
EF-3...Strong....136 to 165 mph
EF-4...Violent...166 to 200 mph
EF-5...Violent...>200 mph

When a tornado is known to have occurred but does not cause damage to any qualified damage indicators, or if the only damage is located in an area that is inaccessible to NWS storm survey personnel, then a tornado may be assigned the EF-Unknown (EF-U) rating.

NOTE:

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

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NWS Chicago/Lincoln/Northern Indiana/Quad Cities/Milwaukee