

Summary of Storm Surveys of the Tornadoes of April 16, 1998

The first touchdown was 2 miles south of Dickson in Dickson county between I-40 and hwy 46. Path length was 1/4 mile, path width about 1/8 mile, F3 damage to 2 homes. The tornado touched down briefly in Cheatham county, west of Ashland City. This tornado touched down again in west Nashville about 1 mile west of Charlotte Pk and I-440, at an intensity of F1. The tornado knocked out windows to many downtown buildings including the building for TPAC. TPAC had 100 windows knocked out. The Tennessee Towers, which serves as our transmitter site for the Nashville NOAA Weather Radio, were knocked down at 345 PM. As a result NWR was off the air. Large trees were uprooted. Most of the damage in downtown Nashville was F1 or F2. East Nashville was hardest hit with the intensity of an F3. The tornado did major damage to the Gaylord building at Donelson. The tornado turned left and headed to Hendersonville, and into Trousdale county. The remains of this storm complex moved into Southern Kentucky. The tornado hit the downtown area, the TPAC building at 341 PM. The path through the county was 11 miles long and 3/4 mile wide.

The second tornado struck at 420 PM, between downtown and Nashville Airport. A tornado warning was out at 404 PM for this storm. It went east and then south through Nashville, and south of Donelson. There were tree and roof damage at an intensity of F2, then it went through Mt. Juliet along Lebanon Pk in western Wilson county as F2, then on to Lebanon. It caused considerable damage around W. Main St. and HWY 70 in Lebanon.

The strong tornadoes in southwest Middle Tennessee began 5 miles southeast of Savannah in Hardin county. The tornado increased rapidly to an F3. It continued on into western Wayne county near Lutts as an F4. It killed 2 females at Lay Creek Road and one female at Chalk Creek. This tornado ended at Natchez Trace, just east of Collinwood. The path width reached one mile. A second tornado track began 5 miles east from the initial tornado track. The second tornado formed near the Wayne-Lawrence county border. This tornado increased from an F1 to an F5 by the time it reached Piney Road. Piney Road is 8 miles west of Lawrenceburg. This F5 evaluation was based by the Lawrence County EMA director who stated that a one ton Dodge flatbed pickup truck was hurled 20 miles from Piney Road. He also stated that houses were literally disintegrated. This second tornado ended in Ethridge. Maximum width is 1 mile, path length 20 miles in Lawrence county. A third tornado reformed about 3 miles north of Lawrenceburg, and it evolved quickly to an F4. It moved into Giles county and continued as an F4 as it destroyed a home and demolished a trailer on Parrish Hollow Road near Screamer on the Giles-Maury county border. One person was injured, treated and then released. This third tornado continued to move northeast and damaged homes in southeast Maury county at Culleoka and Tice Town with F3 damage and 1/2 mile width. The path length from this third tornado was 25 miles.

The Pickett county EMA situation report indicated an F3 tornado hit Pickett county. It was part of the first tornadic storm complex that hit Nashville. It began 3.6 miles southwest of Byrdstown and ended 1.2 miles ENE of Red Hill. The tornado was a 1/2 mile wide with a path length of 8.6 miles. 40 homes were destroyed, 22 mobile homes destroyed, 95% of the trees destroyed in the tornado's path and 4 people were injured, treated and released.