August 18 Tornado

A supercell thunderstorm crossed Jefferson County, Illinois during the late afternoon. The storm produced golf-ball size hail, a weak tornado, and damaging straight-line winds. The storm displayed the classic radar signatures of a rotating supercell. Structural damage was confined to rural areas southwest of Mount Vernon.

During the late afternoon hours on August 18, 2001, a supercell thunderstorm developed southwest of Mount Vernon, Illinois. By definition, a supercell thunderstorm is a thunderstorm that contains distinct, sustained rotation. Radar indicated strong rotation in the storm as it moved into southwest Jefferson County, and a Tornado Warning was issued for Jefferson County from about 5:50 P.M. until 6:30 P.M.

The supercell moved east-southeast, from near Waltonville to Ina. The strongest rotation was detected while the storm was near Waltonville, which is in southwest Jefferson County. A damage survey of southwest Jefferson County was conducted by a meteorologist from the Paducah office. It was determined that a weak tornado briefly touched down near Waltonville. As the storm crossed Rend Lake and approached Ina, rotation decreased and became less organized. Even after the weakening trend, quarter-size hail and a rotating wall cloud were observed near the Ina exit of Interstate 57.
ILLINOIS: (GUSTS IN KNOTS - i.e. Thunderstorm Wind (G65) = 75 mph)

Jefferson County
Waltonville to
3 E Waltonville
18 1655CST 1657CST 0 0 0 0 Hail (1.75)
Golf-ball size hail occurred in and near Waltonville in association with a severe supercell thunderstorm.

Jefferson County
2 WSW Waltonville to
4 SSE Waltonville
18 1655CST 1705CST 0 0 0 25K Thunderstorm Wind (G65)
A supercell thunderstorm tracked east-southeast across southern Jefferson County. The greatest concentration of sporadic wind damage was oriented in a 4-mile long swath through Waltonville. Several large trees and tree limbs were downed. Two barns and one car were damaged by falling tree debris. Trusses of a business undergoing a re-roofing project were blown down. Part of a tin roof was blown off the corner of another barn. An uninhabited trailer home was blown off its foundation and demolished. The damage was determined to be from thunderstorm outflow winds, likely from the rear flank of the storm. Peak winds were estimated at 70 to 80 MPH. Toward the end of the damage path, a weak tornado briefly touched down.

Jefferson County
3 SSE Waltonville
18 1702CST 1703CST 0.1 30 0 0 Tornado (F0)
A supercell thunderstorm tracked east-southeast across southern Jefferson County. The storm produced a weak tornado that lasted for less than a minute. Evidence of the tornado consisted of damage to a corn field, strong rotation depicted on doppler radar, and an eyewitness account. Peak winds in the tornado were estimated at 70 MPH.

Franklin County
Rend Lake South
18 1720CST 0 0 Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Numerous trees and large branches were down. The damage was associated with outflow winds from a severe supercell thunderstorm that tracked across southern Jefferson County.

Jefferson County
Ina
18 1723CST 1725CST 0 0 0 0 Hail (1.00)
Quarter-size hail fell at the Ina exit of Interstate 57. This large hail was the last in a series of severe weather occurrences associated with a supercell thunderstorm that crossed southern Jefferson County.
Jefferson County
Dix 18 1825CST 0 0 Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Several large tree limbs were blown down.

Hamilton County
Mc Leansboro 18 1900CST 0 0 Hail (0.75)

Wayne County
Wayne City 18 1915CST 0 0 Hail (1.75)

Wayne County
Fairfield 18 1930CST 0 0 Hail (0.75)
In addition to dime size hail, numerous tree limbs were down on power lines.

Jefferson County
Countywide 18 1930CST 0 0 5K Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Numerous trees and power lines were down.

Hamilton County
Mc Leansboro 18 1930CST 0 0 Hail (1.00)

White County
Enfield to Carlini

Perry County
Du Quoin 18 1943CST 0 0 10K Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Numerous trees and power lines were brought down by thunderstorm winds, especially in the Du Quoin area. A four-foot wide tree crashed through the front of a home. Dozens of families were without power, some for more than 12 hours.

Franklin County
Sesser 18 1959CST 0 0 3K Thunderstorm Wind
The corner of a 3-car garage was ripped off.

Williamson County
Marion 18 2000CST 0 0 Hail (0.75)

Franklin County
Royalton 18 2008CST 0 0 2020CST Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Several trees and large tree limbs were blown down in Royalton, especially on the north side of town.

Jackson County
Elkville 18 2015CST 0 0 Hail (0.75)

Union County
Dongola 18 2156CST 0 0 Hail (0.75)

Johnson County
Cypress 18 2209CST 0 0 Hail (0.75)

INdiana, Southwest

Pike County
Petersburg to Winslow 18 2102CST 2104CST 0 0 10K Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
A communications tower was blown down near Petersburg, landing across a road. A spotter estimated wind gusts to 60 MPH near Winslow.

Warrick County
Newburgh 18 2120CST 0 0 Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Trees were blown down by thunderstorm winds.