Severe Storms – August 4, 2009

A very humid and unstable atmosphere set the stage for widespread thunderstorms that produced heavy rain and local wind damage. Though there were isolated storms during the midday hours, the main severe storm complex evolved over southern Illinois around 4 P.M. The first severe weather report of the main event was a wind gust to 70 mph clocked at the Carbondale airport at 4:29 P.M. In anticipation of the increase in storms, the Storm Prediction Center issued Severe Thunderstorm Watch 658 at 3:10 P.M.

Over 30 reports of wind damage, funnel clouds, flash flooding, and hail were received by the Paducah NWS office in a 5-hour period ending at 9 P.M. A "bow echo" produced widespread wind gusts from 60 to 70 mph in a swath from the Carbondale and Harrisburg, IL areas, southeast across the Ohio River, to Hopkinsville and the Lakes Region of western Kentucky. Serious flooding occurred in Cape Girardeau, where numerous water rescues were conducted. A couple of weak tornadoes occurred in Christian County.

The map below shows the path of the bow echo that produced widespread wind gusts in the 60 to 70 mph range.
...DAMAGE SURVEY RESULTS FOR CHRISTIAN COUNTY KENTUCKY...

THE FOLLOWING IS THE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FOR A DOWNBURST WITH EMBEDDED TORNADOES THAT OCCURRED JUST NORTH OF HOPKINSVILLE KENTUCKY TUESDAY AUGUST 4TH, 2009.

* EVENT DATE - TUESDAY AUGUST 4 2009
* EVENT TIME - APPROX. 655 PM CDT
* EVENT TYPE - **DOWNBURST WITH EMBEDDED BRIEF TORNADOES**
* EVENT LOCATION - 2.7 MILES NORTH OF HOPKINSVILLE TO JUST EAST OF EXIT 12 ON THE PENNYRILE PARKWAY.
* PEAK WIND - 80 MPH WITH 2 EMBEDDED EF0 TORNADOES
* AVERAGE PATH WIDTH - ABOUT 250 YDS
* PATH LENGTH - 1.5 MILES
* INJURIES - 1 INJURY. STORM SPOTTER STRUCK BY FLYING PIECE OF WOOD WHICH RESULTED IN A BADLY BRUISED SHOULDER
* FATALITIES - NONE

* DISCUSSION/DAMAGE - EMBEDDED BRIEF TORNADOES OCCURRED ALONG DOWNBURST PATH. FIRST BRIEF TOUCHDOWN...EYEWITNESSED BY A TRAINED SKYWARN SPOTTER...BEGAN AT INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 41 AND THE BYPASS (1682) AND TRAVELLED JUST NORTH OF THE BYPASS FOR ABOUT ONE HALF MILE. DAMAGE INCLUDED 2 FIBERGLASS LIGHT POLES SNAPPED AT BASE...SEVERAL TREES SNAPPED AND LARGE LIMBS BROKEN. ADDITIONAL BRIEF TOUCHDOWN OCCURRED JUST EAST OF THE PENNYRILE PARKWAY ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE BYPASS (1682). DAMAGE INCLUDED A ROOF BEING TORN OFF OF A METAL STORAGE BUILDING WHICH WAS BLOWN NORTH BACK ACROSS THE HIGHWAY.

SURVEYOR...WIELGOS

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PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT...SUMMARY
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PADUCAH KY
926 PM CDT TUE AUG 04 2009

..TIME... ..EVENT... ..CITY LOCATION... ..LAT.LON...
..DATE... ..MAG.... ..COUNTY LOCATION..ST.. ..SOURCE.... ..REMARKS..

1145 AM  TSTM WND DMG  PRINCETON  38.36N 87.57W
08/04/2009

LARGE TREE DOWN.

1200 PM  TSTM WND DMG  PETERSBURG  38.49N 87.28W
08/04/2009

TREES DOWN ALONG HIGHWAY 56 ON WEST SIDE OF TOWN.

0429 PM  TSTM WND GST  CARBONDALE  37.72N 89.22W
08/04/2009

M70.00 MPH  JACKSON  IL  ASOS

LATE REPORT.

0500 PM  TSTM WND DMG  ANNA  37.46N 89.24W
08/04/2009

UNION  IL  EMERGENCY MNGR
NUMEROUS TREES AND POWER LINES DOWN. MULTIPLE ACCIDENTS REPORTED. SAME TYPE OF DAMAGE REPORTED IN THE COMMUNITY OF JONESBORO.

0500 PM  TSTM WND DMG  CARRIER MILLS  37.69N 88.63W
08/04/2009  SALINE  IL  LAW ENFORCEMENT

ROOF PEELED OFF OF MOBILE HOME. STREET FLOODING ALSO REPORTED.

0500 PM  TSTM WND DMG  COBDEN  37.53N 89.25W
08/04/2009  UNION  IL  EMERGENCY MNGR

TREES AND POWER LINES DOWN. WINDS ESTIMATED AT 70MPH ASSOCIATED WITH THIS STORM.

0505 PM  FUNNEL CLOUD  3 W DELWOOD  37.58N 88.63W
08/04/2009  POPE  IL  AIRPLANE PILOT

2 PILOTS REPORTED FUNNEL CLOUD JUST WEST OF DELWOOD.

0506 PM  TSTM WND DMG  HARRISBURG  37.74N 88.55W
08/04/2009  SALINE  IL  LAW ENFORCEMENT

TREES AND POWER LINES DOWN. STREET FLOODING ALSO REPORTED.

0510 PM  TSTM WND DMG  CRAB ORCHARD  37.73N 88.80W
08/04/2009  WILLIAMSON  IL  LAW ENFORCEMENT

TREE DOWN ON CAR. NO INJURIES REPORTED.

0515 PM  TSTM WND DMG  WEST VIENNA  37.43N 88.97W
08/04/2009  JOHNSON  IL  LAW ENFORCEMENT

TREES DOWN AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAYS 37 AND 146.

0521 PM  TSTM WND DMG  PADUCAH  37.07N 88.64W
08/04/2009  MCCCRACKEN  KY  EMERGENCY MNGR

LATE REPORT...MOBILE HOME HAD 30 FEET OF ROOF PEELED BACK LIKE A SARDINE CAN. NO INJURIES REPORTED. THE EVENT OCCURRED ALONG OLD MAYFIELD ROAD.

0550 PM  TSTM WND DMG  ADVANCE  37.10N 89.91W
08/04/2009  STODDARD  MO  TRAINED SPOTTER

LATE REPORT...16 INCH DIAMETER TREE DOWN ON A MOBILE HOME. 8 INCH DIAMETER TREE DOWN ON AN PICKUP TRUCK. NO INJURIES REPORTED. SEMI-TRACTOR TRAILER RIG WITH FREIGHT BLOWN OVER.

0550 PM  TSTM WND DMG  1 N CAPE GIRARDEAU  37.32N 89.55W
08/04/2009  CAPE GIRARDEAU  MO  TRAINED SPOTTER

TREES DONW. WINDS ESTIMATED 60 TO 65 MPH WITH THE STORM.

0558 PM  HEAVY RAIN  1 N CAPE GIRARDEAU  37.32N 89.55W
08/04/2009  M1.20 INCH  CAPE GIRARDEAU  MO  TRAINED SPOTTER

RAINFALL MEASURED IN PAST 15 MINUTES. SEVERAL STREET INTERSECTIONS HAVE STANDING WATER.
0612 PM  TSTM WND GST  CALVERT CITY 37.03N 88.35W
08/04/2009  E65.00 MPH  MARSHALL KY TRAINED SPOTTER

TREES BOWING.

0622 PM  TSTM WND GST  PRINCETON 37.11N 87.88W
08/04/2009  E65.00 MPH  CALDWELL KY TRAINED SPOTTER

0623 PM  TSTM WND DMG  TAMMS 37.24N 89.27W
08/04/2009  Alex Alexander  IL EMERGENCY MNGR

TREES DONW IN THE COMMUNITY. ALSO REPORTED IN MILLER CITY AND OLIVE BRANCH. ESTIMATED WINDS WITH THE STORM WERE 50 TO 60 MPH.

0625 PM  TSTM WND DMG  BARLOW 37.05N 89.05W
08/04/2009  BALLARD KY EMERGENCY MNGR

CREWS WORKING ON SEVERAL ROADS TO REMOVE DOWNED TREES AND POWER LINES. FIRE RESPONDED TO FIRES DUE TO DOWNED LINES. DAMAGE IS REPORTED IN THE COMMUNITY AND COUNTYWIDE. DOWNED TREES HAVE BLOCKED SEVERAL INTERSECTIONS AND ROADWAYS.

0630 PM  TSTM WND GST  PRINCETON 37.11N 87.88W
08/04/2009  M67.00 MPH  CALDWELL KY MESONET

0655 PM  TSTM WND GST  CALEDONIA 36.82N 87.69W
08/04/2009  M70.00 MPH  TRIGG KY TRAINED SPOTTER

WINDS OCCURRED ON THE TRIGG CHRISTIAN COUNTY LINE ALONG HIGHWAY 272.

0700 PM  TSTM WND DMG  HOPKINSVILLE 36.85N 87.49W
08/04/2009  CHRISTIAN KY TRAINED SPOTTER

LATE REPORT...MOST OF DAMAGE OCCURRED ON NORTH SIDE OF TOWN. TREES...POWER LINES AND POLES DOWN. POLE BARN DESTROYED ALONG WITTY ROAD AND ROOF DAMAGE TO HOME ALONG PRINCETON ROAD.

0700 PM  TSTM WND DMG  FREDONIA 37.21N 88.06W
08/04/2009  CALDWELL KY TRAINED SPOTTER

2 BARN ROOFS BLOWN OFF AND BLOCKING COUNTY HIGHWAY 902E. TIME ESTIMATED.

0700 PM  TSTM WND DMG  PRINCETON 37.11N 87.88W
08/04/2009  CALDWELL KY EMERGENCY MNGR

LATE REPORT...CARPORT DOWN ON HIGHWAY 293 NORTH OF TOWN. ALSO HAVE ONE BUILDING WITH WINDOWS BLOWN OUT. SEVERAL ROADS IMPASSABLE DUE TO WATER. TIME ESTIMATED.

0718 PM  TSTM WND DMG  JACKSON 37.38N 89.65W
08/04/2009  Cape Girardeau MO EMERGENCY MNGR

WIDESPREAD POWER OUTAGES REPORTED THROUGHOUT THE CITY. EOC ON BACKUP POWER.

0734 PM  TSTM WND GST  ELKTON 36.81N 87.16W
08/04/2009  E60.00 MPH  TODD KY TRAINED SPOTTER
0735 PM     TSTM WND DMG     ELKTON                  36.81N 87.16W
08/04/2009 TODD       KY   TRAINED SPOTTER

TIME ESTIMATED...ONE TREE DOWN BLOCKING HIGHWAY 181N.

0743 PM     TSTM WND GST     CAPE GIRARDEAU          37.31N 89.55W
08/04/2009 E55.00 MPH   CAPE GIRARDEAU     MO   TRAINED SPOTTER

0750 PM     FLASH FLOOD      CAPE GIRARDEAU          37.31N 89.55W
08/04/2009 CAPE GIRARDEAU MO   BROADCAST MEDIA

SEVERAL MAIN AND SECONDARY ROADS HAVE STANDING WATER THROUGHOUT THE DOWNTOWN AREA.

0834 PM     HEAVY RAIN       KEVIL                   37.08N 88.89W
08/04/2009 M0.70 INCH       BALLARD       KY   EMERGENCY MNGR

RAINFALL OCCURRED WITHIN 15 MINUTES.

0835 PM     FLASH FLOOD      CHARLESTON              36.92N 89.34W
08/04/2009 MISSISSIPPI     MO   LAW ENFORCEMENT

REPORTS OF WATER OVER SEVERAL ROADWAYS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

0837 PM     FLASH FLOOD      CAPE GIRARDEAU          37.31N 89.55W
08/04/2009 CAPE GIRARDEAU MO   EMERGENCY MNGR

SOUTHERN HALF OF COMMUNITY EXPERIENCING SERIOUS FLOODING. COUNTY OFFICIALS ARE PREPARING FOR SWIFT WATER RECUES AT THIS TIME. VARIOUS DEGREES OF FLOODING REPORTED THROUGHOUT CAPE GIRARDEAU.

0852 PM     HAIL             GREENVILLE              37.13N 90.45W
08/04/2009 M1.75 INCH       WAYNE              MO   LAW ENFORCEMENT

GOLFBALL HAIL REPORTED.

0902 PM     FLASH FLOOD      PADUCAH                 37.07N 88.64W
08/04/2009 MCCCRACKEN       KY   FIRE DEPT/RESCUE

WATER OVER STREETS NEAR EXECUTIVE INN.

0905 PM     HAIL             SHOOK                   37.04N 90.31W
08/04/2009 M1.00 INCH       WAYNE              MO   TRAINED SPOTTER

DIME TO QUARTER SIZE HAIL REPORTED.

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SMITTY