

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHICAGO IL  
1034 PM CDT MON JUN 14 2010 /1134 PM EDT MON JUN 14 2010/

...INTENSE SUPERCELL THUNDERSTORM HITS BENTON COUNTY INDIANA...

A STRONG THUNDERSTORM DEVELOPED OVER SOUTHEASTERN IROQUOIS COUNTY SHORTLY AFTER 2 PM...TRACKING EASTWARD INTO SOUTHERN BENTON COUNTY. AS THE STORM MOVED INTO BENTON COUNTY IT EVOLVED INTO A SUPERCELL...WHICH IS A THUNDERSTORM WITH A VERY INTENSE ROTATING UPDRAFT. SUPERCELL THUNDERSTORMS ARE THE MOST INTENSE TYPE OF THUNDERSTORM AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST SIGNIFICANT TORNADOES THAT OCCUR IN THE U.S. EACH YEAR...AS WELL AS NEARLY ALL OF THE VERY LARGE HAIL.

THE ROTATION AND UPDRAFT OF THE STORM MOVING INTO BENTON COUNTY BOTH BEGAN TO STRENGTHEN AS THE STORM MOVED JUST EAST OF BOSWELL. REPORTS OF DAMAGE BEGAN ROLLING INTO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE SHORTLY AFTER THE STORM PASSED...INCLUDING REPORTS OF DOWNED TREES...A DESTROYED BARN...EXTENSIVE CROP DAMAGE...AND MINOR STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO HOMES. THESE INITIAL REPORTS OF DAMAGE SEEMED TO CORRELATE RATHER WELL WITH THE LOCATION OF THE STRONGEST ROTATION ON RADAR...SO A DAMAGE SURVEY TEAM WAS DISPATCHED TO DETERMINE BOTH THE CAUSE AND INTENSITY OF THE DAMAGE.

RESULTS OF THE STORM DAMAGE SURVEY REVEAL THAT THE DAMAGE WAS CAUSED BY VERY STRONG STRAIGHT LINE WINDS OF 60-75 MPH ACROSS A LARGE SWATH OF BENTON COUNTY...ORIGINATING JUST NORTH OF BOSWELL AND CONTINUING EAST AND SOUTHEAST TO THE WARREN COUNTY LINE SOUTH OF OXFORD. A COUPLE POCKETS OF PARTICULARLY INTENSE DAMAGE WERE NOTED ALONG HIGHWAY 352 BETWEEN BOSWELL AND OXFORD.

THE FIRST IN THE COMMUNITY CHASE...WHERE A LARGE HARDWOOD TREE WAS SNAPPED AT THE BASE WITH OTHER TREES DOWN AND LARGE BRANCHES DOWN IN A COUPLE MILE WIDE AREA CENTERED AROUND CHASE. THE DAMAGE PATTERN ASSOCIATED WITH THIS AREA CONSISTED OF THE TYPICAL DIVERGENT...OR FANNING OUT...SIGNATURE WHICH IS ASSOCIATED WITH INTENSE DOWNBURSTS. THE MOST INTENSE DAMAGE IN THIS AREA WAS CONSISTENT WITH WINDS OF 90 TO 100 MPH...OR EF-1 INTENSITY ON THE ENHANCED FUJITA DAMAGE SCALE.

A SECOND AREA OF MORE INTENSE DAMAGE WAS LOCATED FARTHER EAST ON HIGHWAY 352...JUST WEST OF THE COMMUNITY OF OXFORD. A WELL BUILT BARN WAS PARTIALLY DESTROYED IN THIS LOCATION WITH DEBRIS FROM THE BARN SPREAD SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS DOWN STREAM. SEVERAL TREES WERE DOWNED IN THE AREA WITH SOME MINOR ROOF DAMAGE TO THE NEARBY HOME. ONCE AGAIN THE DAMAGE HERE WAS CONSISTENT WITH THAT OF AN INTENSE DOWNBURST WITH WINDS BETWEEN 90-100 MPH...OR EF-1 INTENSITY ON THE ENHANCED FUJITA DAMAGE SCALE.

EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN ANY OF THE WIDESPREAD WIND DAMAGE WAS THE CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE THAT THE GIANT HAIL CAUSED TO CROPS IN THE AREA. A VERY LARGE SWATH OF CROPS WAS COMPLETELY OBLITERATED BY THE INTENSE WINDS AND UP TO SOFTBALL SIZED HAIL. A VERY PRELIMINARY/ROUGH ESTIMATE WOULD SUGGEST THAT OVER 5000 ACRES OF CORN CROPS ALONE MAY BE COMPLETELY LOST...WHICH IF TRUE WOULD EQUATE TO A MONETARY LOSS OF SEVERAL MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. THE HAIL ALSO CAUSED SIGNIFICANT ROOF DAMAGE TO MANY HOMES IN THE AREA.

WHILE THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE FOUND ANYWHERE IN BENTON COUNTY OF A TORNADO...IN SOME RESPECTS THE DAMAGE FROM ENORMOUS SWATH OF WIND WHIPPED BASEBALL TO SOFTBALL SIZED HAIL LIKELY RESULTED IN

MONETARY LOSSES FAR GREATER THAN A TORNADO WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN.

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