

Tornado Outbreak

March 12th, 2006

Overview

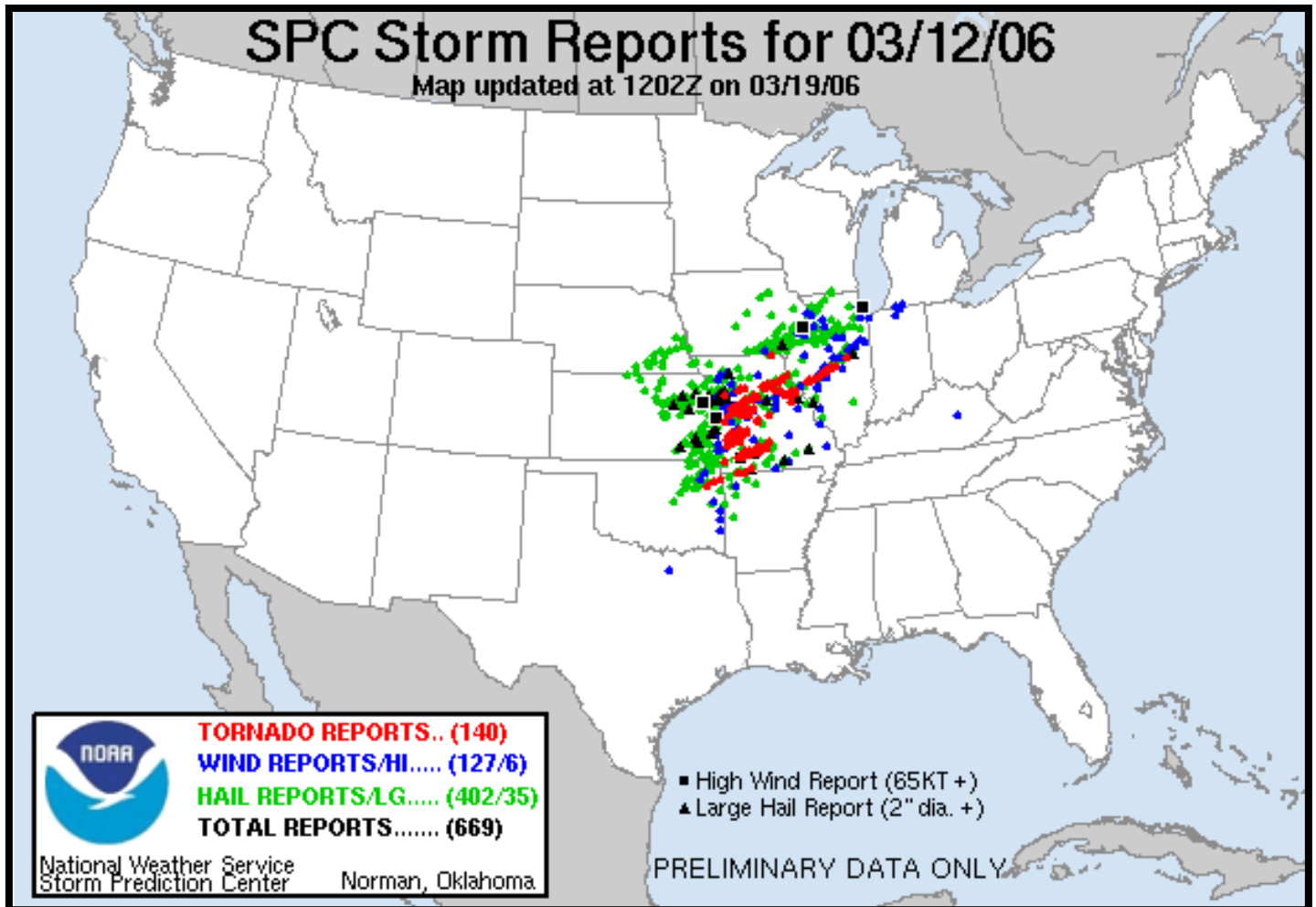
A strong mid/upper level trough with a 100-kt mid level jet moved east from the lower Colorado River Valley across the Central and Southern Plains. Meanwhile, a strong southwesterly low level jet of 60-80kt from the Arklatex region veered from the mid-Mississippi River Valley toward the Ohio River Valley. A surface front extending from Lower Michigan southward across the mid-Mississippi River Valley to Oklahoma and then westward to a surface low over eastern Colorado lifted north as a warm front in response to the strong pressure falls translating from the Central Plains toward the Great Lakes Region. The surface low tracked eastward across northern Kansas and Missouri. Increasing low-level convergence in the vicinity of the surface low and southward along the prefrontal trough/dry line was the focus for thunderstorm initiation during the afternoon across eastern Kansas and western Missouri. Moisture return from the southern plains and lower Mississippi River Valley to the mid-Mississippi River and Ohio River Valleys led to surface dewpoints in the upper 60s reaching as far north as southern Missouri and Illinois. Steep midlevel lapse rates on the nose of the returning elevated mixed layer combined with this moisture to produce CAPE on the order of 2000 J/kg in the warm sector. Deep layer shear was more than sufficient for supercells and the strong low-level jet contributed to large hodographs which were supportive of long track tornadoes.

Cyclic supercells developed and moved east across Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois dropping large hail up to the size of baseballs, damaging wind gusts over 60 mph, and 49 confirmed tornadoes.

Event Statistics

- 49 Confirmed Tornadoes, 8 Fatalities
- 38 Tornadoes in Missouri, 8 fatalities
- 10 Tornadoes in Illinois, 0 fatalities
- 1 Tornado in Kansas, 0 fatalities

Storm Reports



Storm Reports from 12 March 2006 courtesy of the Storm Prediction Center.

Please note that while the severe weather data presented in this event synopsis has been quality controlled, it is still considered unofficial. Official reports & statistics for severe weather events can be found in the **Storm Data** publication (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/IPS/sd/sd.html>) or **Storm Events Database** (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>), available from the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) web page [formerly the National Climate Data Center (NCDC)].

More detailed tornado track information can be accessed using the National Weather Service Damage Assessment Toolkit for all tornadoes beginning in 2012. <https://apps.dat.noaa.gov/StormDamage/DamageViewer/>

Any questions regarding this event review should be address to w-lsx.webmaster@noaa.gov