Severe Weather Outbreak

May 30th, 2004

Overview

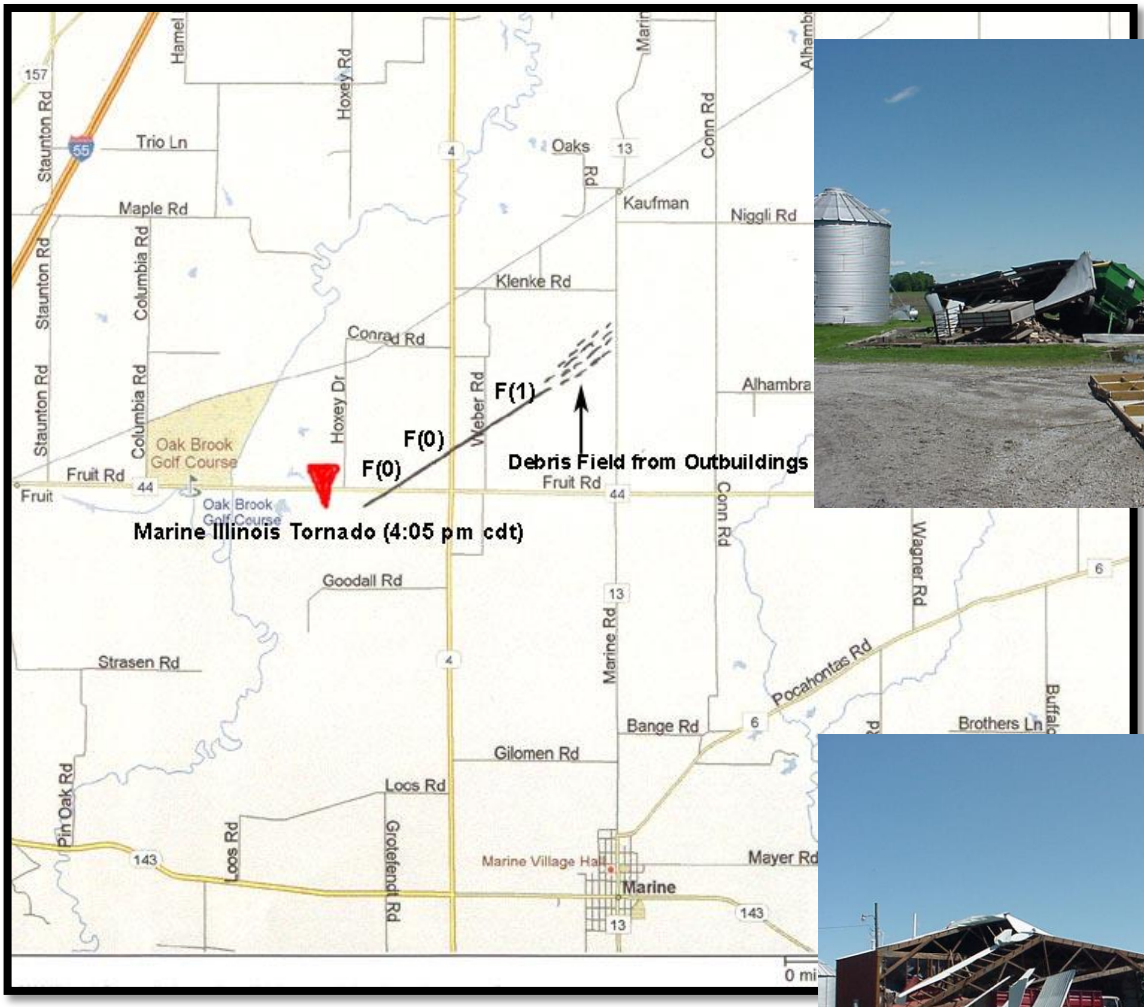
Detailed damage surveys were conducted by National Weather Service personnel over parts of Madison, Clinton and Washington counties in southwest and south-central Illinois. A total of 7 tornado damage tracks were uncovered during the survey.

Map of the May 30th, 2004 tornado damage tracks across southwest and south-central Illinois. Solid black lines are the tornadic damage paths. The Fujita(F) scale is used to measure damage intensity.

Damage Surveys

Marine, Illinois Tornado (eastern Madison county)

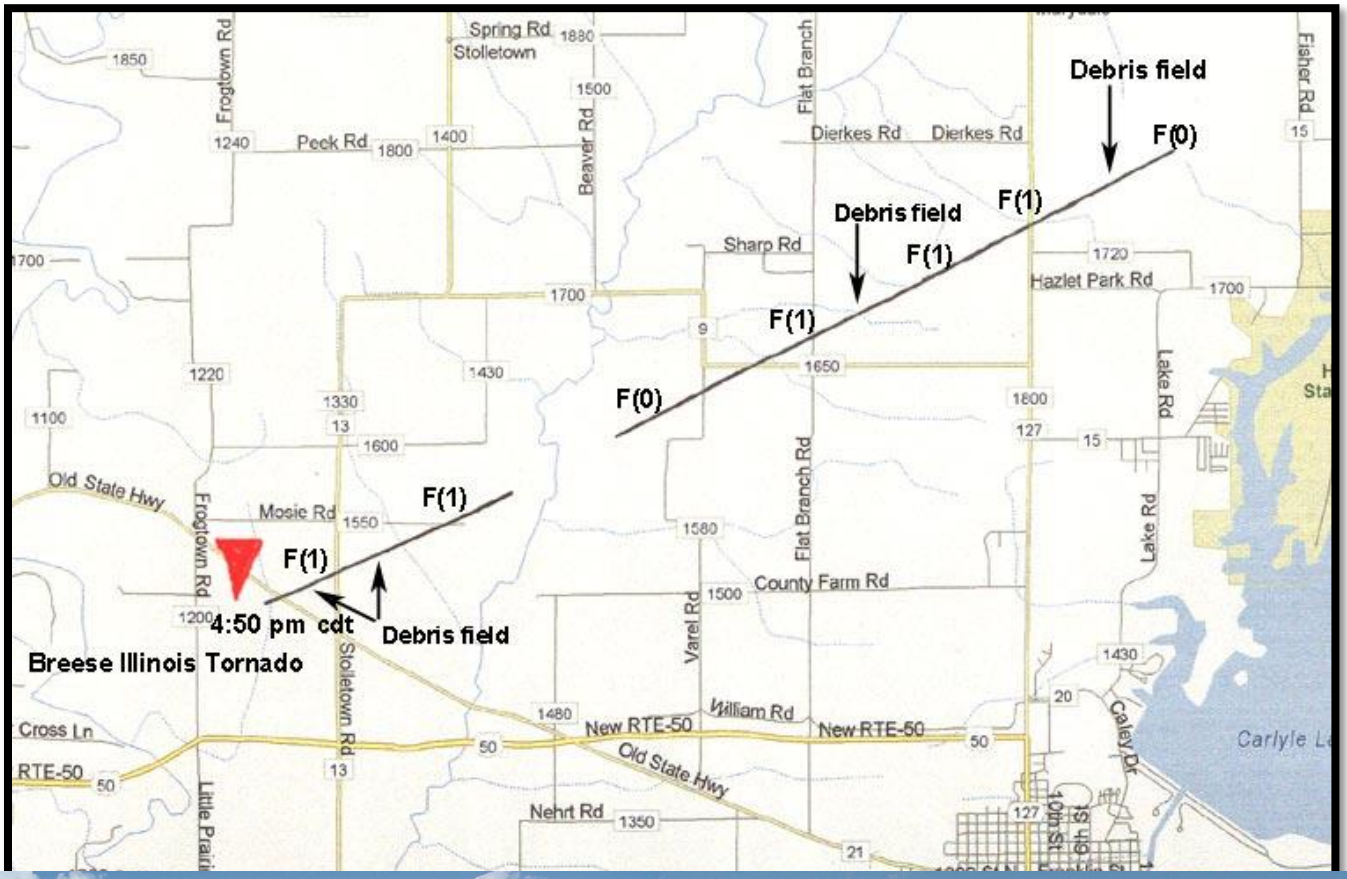
The Marine, Illinois tornado formed 3.5 miles northwest of Marine at approximately 4:05 PM CDT, 1/2 mile west of the intersection of Illinois Route 4 and Fruit Road. Several trees and large tree limbs were severed by the tornado at this location. The tornado traveled northeast and caused minor roof damage to two homes and a small shed 1/4 mile northeast of this intersection. A farmstead was hit by the tornado approximately 1/2 mile northeast of Illinois Route 4 and Fruit Road. Two machine sheds and a silo were damaged by the tornado. Sheet metal from the machine sheds was tossed approximately 1/4 mile northeast of the farmstead. The total tornadic damage track was approximately 2 miles while the damage width varied from 50 to 70 yards. Damage intensity was rated F1. This tornado was spawned from the northern most of three supercells over eastern Madison and western Clinton counties.



Damage Surveys

Breese, Illinois Tornado (Clinton County)

The Breese, Illinois tornado formed at 4:50 PM CDT 3.5 miles northeast of Breese just northwest of the intersection of Stollentown Road and Old State Highway 21. The tornado damaged machine sheds, one home and other farm buildings 1/2 mile north of this intersection. Sheet metal from these buildings were tossed 1/4 to 1/3 mile to the northeast in an open field. The tornado continued to travel to the northeast and damaged several large trees northeast of the farmstead. Three other farmsteads were hit by this tornado approximately 3.5 to 4 miles north of Carlyle, Illinois just north of the intersection of Illinois Route 127 and Hazlet Park Road. Sheet metal from the outbuildings were tossed 1/4 to 1/3 mile northeast of the farmsteads. A garage and 60 foot silo on one of the farmsteads was also damaged by the tornado. Total damage track of the Breese, Illinois tornado was 7 miles while the damage width varied from 50 to 80 yards. Damage intensity was rated F1. This tornado was spawned by the southern most supercell over eastern Madison and western Clinton counties in southwest Illinois.



Damage Surveys

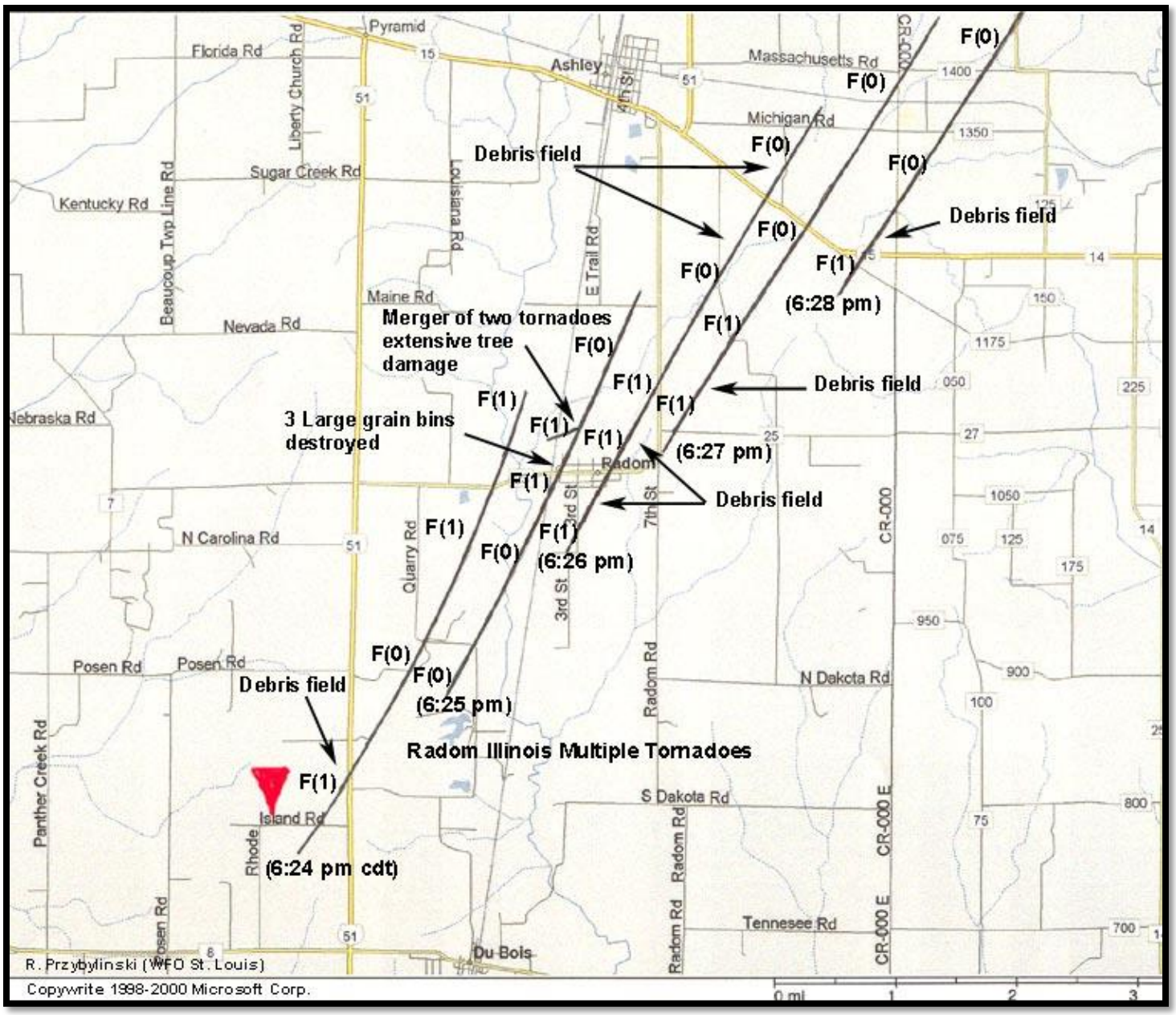
Damage Photos From Breese, Illinois

Damage Surveys

Radom Illinois Tornadoes (eastern Washington County)

Five tornadoes occurred with a bow echo storm which moved northeast across eastern Washington County Illinois. The town of Radom was especially hard hit from two of the five tornadoes. The first tornado formed 1.5 miles west of Dubois, Illinois at 6:24 PM CDT and traveled northeast across U.S. Highway 51. Outbuildings from two farmsteads west of U.S. Highway 51 sustained minor damage. The tornado then cut through an area of large trees and traveled north-northeast to 1 mile northwest of Radom before it dissipated. Overall path length was 4.5 miles long and damage width varied from 40 to 70 yards. Damage intensity with the first tornado was rated F1. A second tornado formed about a minute later 2 miles north of Dubois and paralleled the first tornadic damage path. Tree damage and 3 large grain bins over 120 feet tall near railroad tracks on the west side of Radom were destroyed by the second tornado. A short-lived tornado formed just northwest of Radom and merged with the second tornado just north of town. Extensive tree damage occurred at the point of merger. The tornadic damage path continued north-northeast for an additional mile. Overall damage path length of the second tornado was 3.5 miles while the damage width varied from 40 to 80 yards. Damage intensity was rated on the high-end of F1. A third tornado formed approximately 1/2 mile south of Radom and traveled northeast across the eastern part of town. Ten homes, one house trailer and several outbuildings sustained varying degrees of damage. The roof of Saint Michaels Catholic School was severely damaged by this tornado. Many large trees were also severed across the eastern part of town. The third tornadic damage track ended approximately 1.5 miles east of Ashley, Illinois. The third tornado had an overall damage path length of 4 miles and damage width varied from 50 to 100 yards. Damage intensity associated with this tornado was rated F1. A fourth tornado formed 1/2 mile east of Radom and damaged several outbuildings on a farmstead 3/4 mile northeast of Radom. This tornado traveled to the northeast and damaged many trees along its path. Outbuildings from two other farmsteads sustained varying degrees of damage from this tornado. The fourth tornado paralleled the third tornadic damage track and dissipated 2.5 miles northeast near the Washington/Jefferson county line. Overall length of the damage track was 4.5 miles while damage width varied from 40 to 70 yards. Damage intensity of the fourth tornado was rated F1. A fifth tornado formed 2.5 miles northeast of Radom and caused damage to a machine shed near the intersection of Illinois Route 15 and County Road 1175. The fifth tornado paralleled the fourth tornadic damage path. This tornado crossed the Washington/Jefferson county line and caused mainly tree damage along it path. Overall damage path length was 3 miles while damage width varied from 40 to 60 yards. Damage intensity associated with this tornado was mainly rated F0. Multiple tornado damage tracks have been documented in two other events across our region since 1995.

Damage Surveys

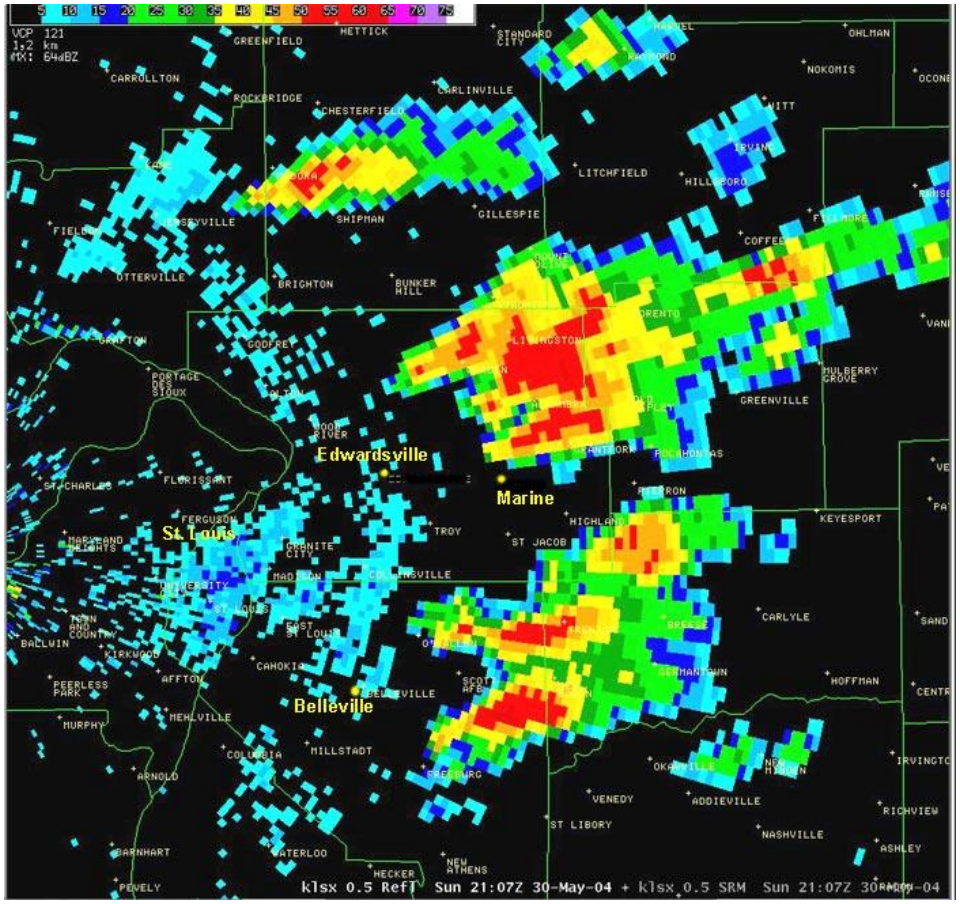


Detailed mapping of the tornadic damage tracks of the Radom, Illinois multiple tornado event - May 30th, 2004 (eastern Washington County Illinois).

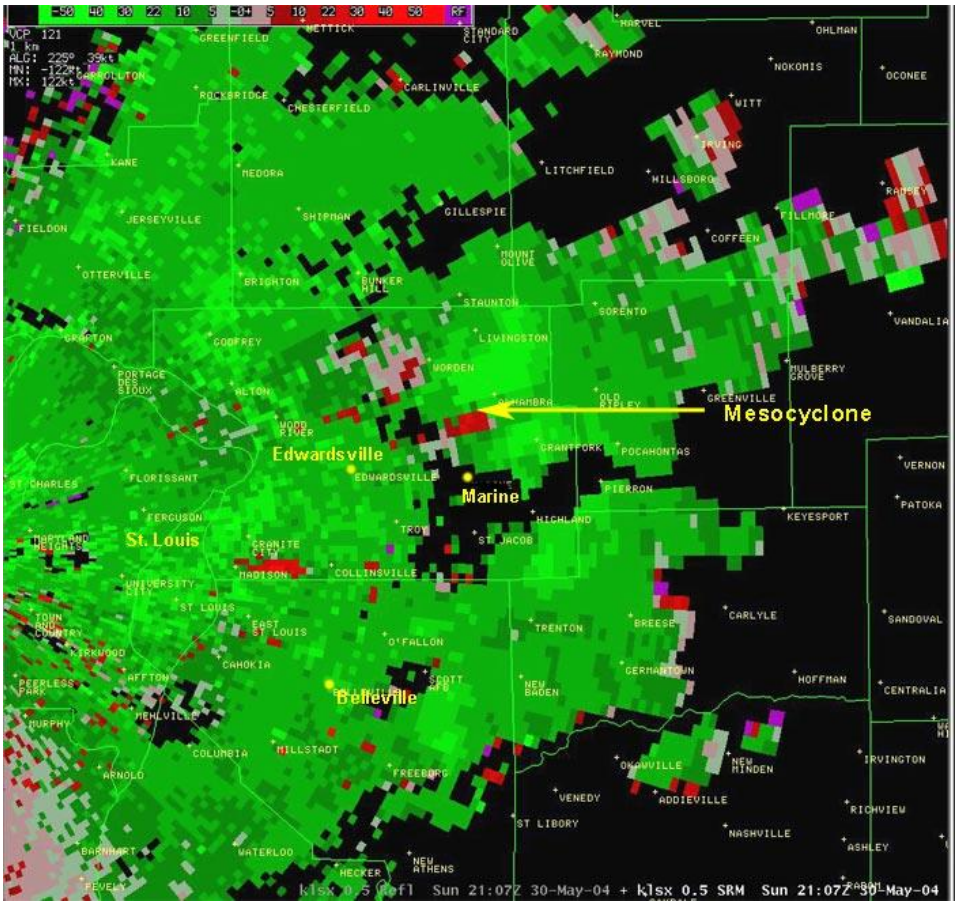
Damage Surveys

Damage Photos From Radom, Illinois

Radar Data

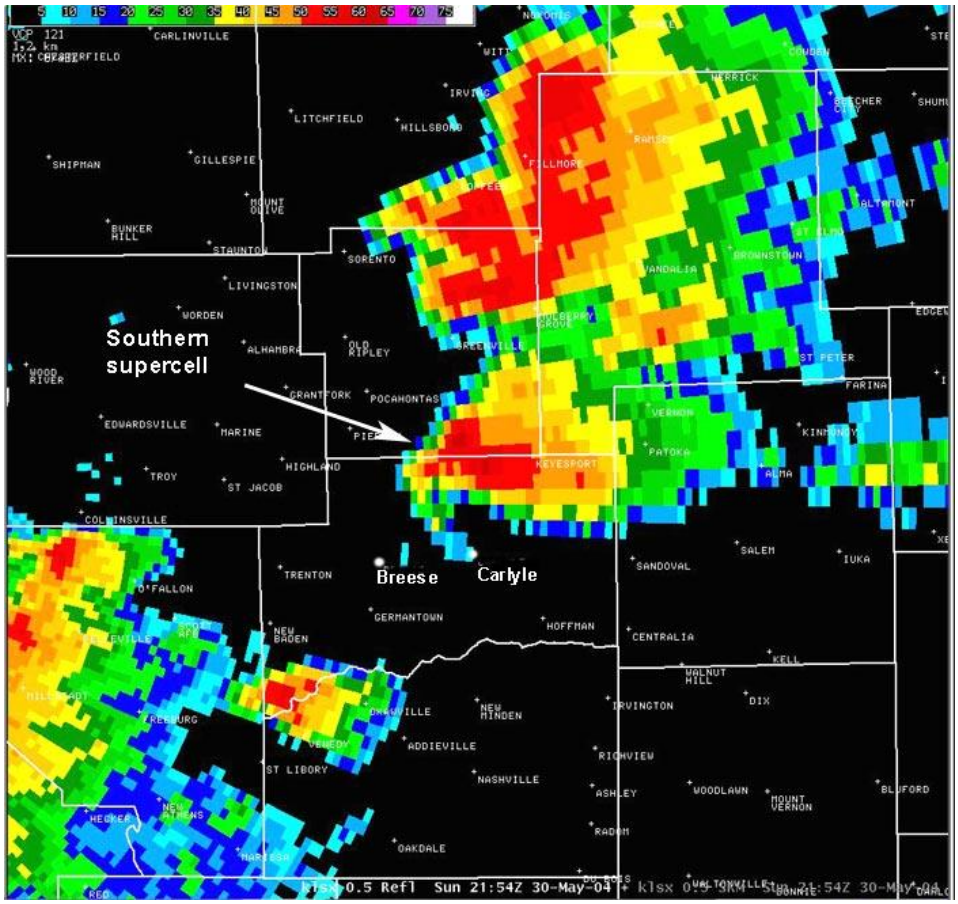


Plan view image of the storm reflectivity field of the northern-most of three supercells over eastern Madison and western Clinton counties at 4:07 PM CDT.

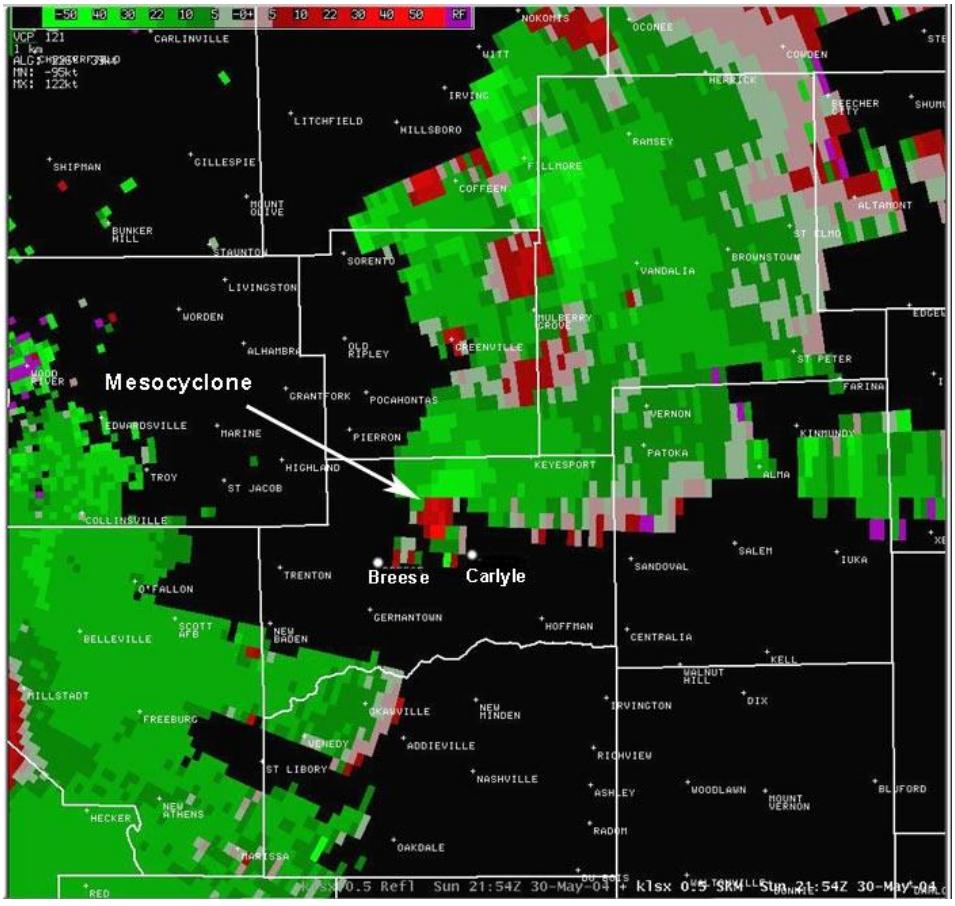


Plan view image of the storm-relative velocity field of the northern most of three supercells. The region of bright green adjacent to bright red north of Marine near the southwest flank of the supercell represents the location of the storm's parent circulation (mesocyclone). This circulation was responsible for spawning the Marine, Illinois tornado.

Radar Data

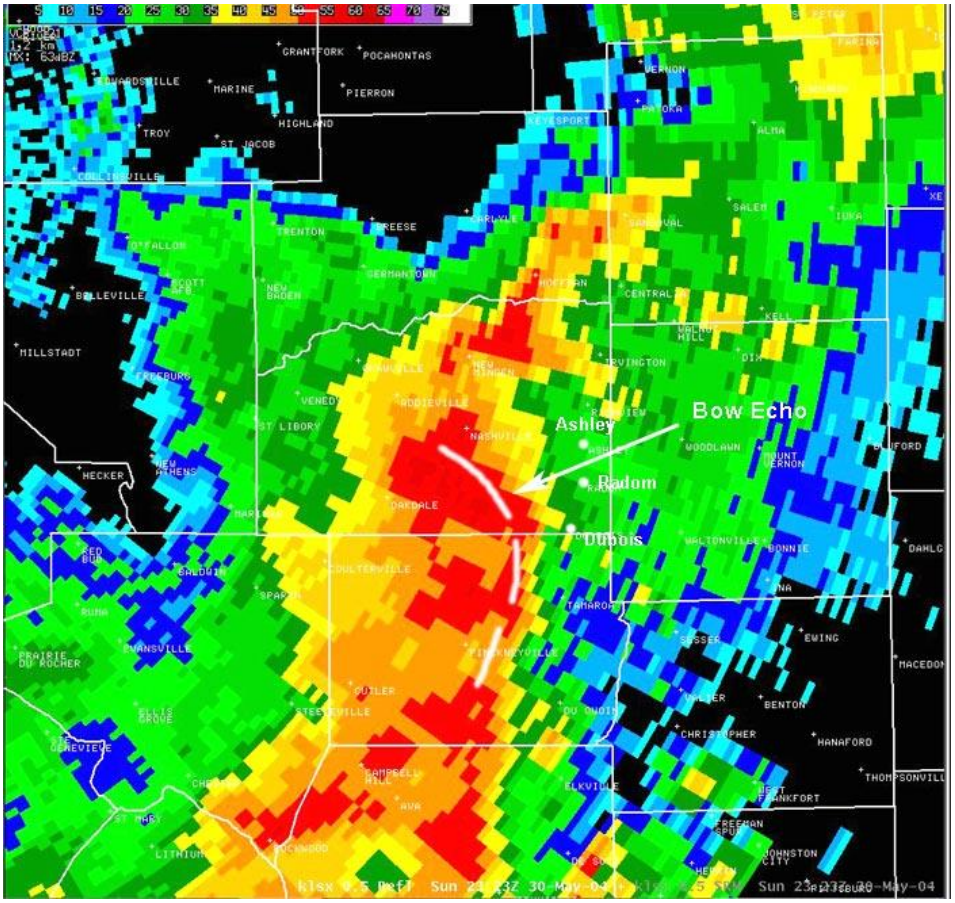


Plan view image of the storm reflectivity field of the southern-most supercell over central Clinton county. Note the pendant echo near the storm's southwest flank - common indicator to where the parent's storm circulation (mesocyclone) is located.

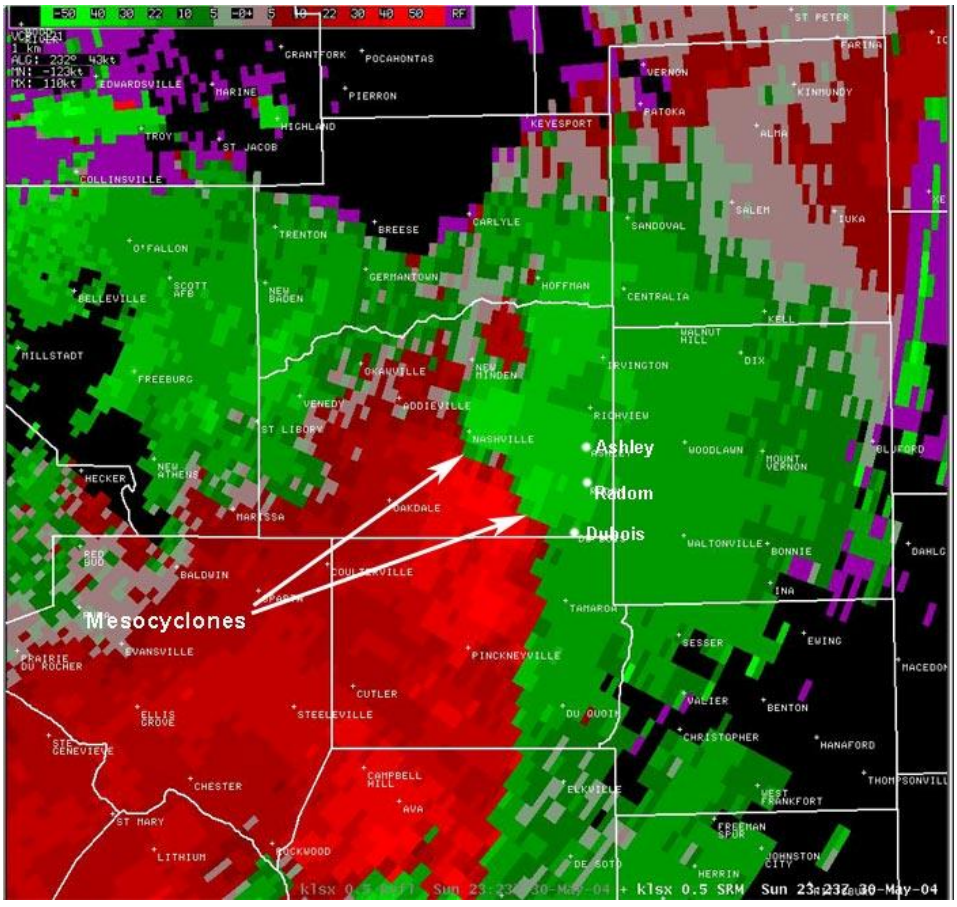


Plan-view image of the storm-relative velocity field of the southern-most supercell. The bright green (inbound velocities) adjacent to the bright red (outbound velocities) represent the location of the mesocyclone - a region of strong rotation. The Breese tornado formed within the vicinity of the mesocyclone.

Radar Data



Plan view image of the storm reflectivity field (623 PM CDT) of the bow echo approaching eastern Washington County Illinois.



Plan-view image of the storm-relative velocity field showing two mesocyclones along the leading edge of the bow echo. The southern-most mesocyclone spawned the series of tornadoes in far southeast Washington County including the town of Radom.

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