



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 1999

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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ARKANSAS, Northwest

Crawford County Uniontown	05	1606CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Crawford County 2 S Cedarville	05	1608CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
There was a report of quarter-sized hail in Cedarville, and there was another report of quarter-sized hail 2 miles south of Cedarville.									
Crawford County 2 NE Van Buren	05	1625CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Location: near I-40 and I-540									
Crawford County 1 N Rudy	05	1628CST			0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind
A home just north of Rudy near the old 81 loop had its roof lifted off.									
Crawford County Alma	05	1635CST			0	1	800K		Hail (4.50)
There were several reports of extremely large hail from Alma. The largest report was of giant softball-sized hail, while there were also reports of quarter and golfball-sized hail just north of Alma.									
Such enormous hail caused widespread damage in Alma. Many cars sustained windshield and body damage. Just one auto body shop reported that it had written estimates from hail damage totaling \$140,000. Many roofs also sustained major damage. At the Eagle Crest Golf Course, the hail left small craters on the greens, closing the course for several days while the crater marks were filled. A photo in the Alma Journal newspaper showed a softball-sized pock mark on the golf greens.									
A child was treated for injuries at a local hospital after being struck by the hail.									
Crawford County 2 W Alma	05	1636CST	0.5	30	0	0	1K		Tornado (F0)
Spotters reported a tornado touchdown 2 miles west of Alma. Spotters had followed a wall cloud and then a funnel cloud most of the way across Crawford County which then continued on into Franklin County after the tornado touchdown. The tornado blew down several trees.									
Crawford County 2 N Dyer	05	1641CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Crawford County Mulberry	05	1645CST			0	0			Hail (2.75)
Benton County Maysville	05	1700CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Franklin County Ozark	05	1705CST			0	0	600K		Hail (2.75)
Just south of Ozark, golfball to baseball-sized hail fell, while quarter to golfball-sized hail fell and covered the ground just north of Ozark.									
There were widespread reports of damage to vehicles and to roofs on homes and other structures.									
Franklin County 2 N Altus	05	1715CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Location: Wiederkehr Winery Restaurant...no damage									
Franklin County 2 E Altus	05	1716CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
Crawford County Van Buren	05	1719CST 1723CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
There was a report of golfball-sized hail at 519 PM, and there was another report of quarter-sized hail several minutes later in Van Buren.									



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ARKANSAS, Northwest

Sebastian County

Ft Smith	05	1722CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
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Location: 5700 block of Kelley Hwy in northeastern Fort Smith

Crawford County

Rudy	05	1726CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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Crawford County

Furry	05	1732CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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Crawford County

1 W Alma	05	1734CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
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Crawford County

Alma	05	1735CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Crawford County

2 W Mulberry	05	1749CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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Summary of events for March 5 1999:

An approaching cold front and an upper level disturbance kicked off several severe thunderstorms in northwest Arkansas on March 5. The largest severe thunderstorm developed in Sequoyah County Oklahoma and then strengthened as it moved across Crawford and Franklin Counties along Interstate 40. Along the way, this storm produced giant hail as large as baseballs and softballs. This storm demonstrated strong rotation, producing a brief tornado touchdown just west of Alma and considerable damage from softball-sized hail in Alma. A second weaker, though severe, thunderstorm formed over southern Crawford County and followed the same path as the first storm. Finally, a severe thunderstorm moved out of northeast Oklahoma and clipped northwest Benton County, producing marginally severe hail.

ARZ019-029

Crawford - Sebastian

13	1000CST				0	0			Flood
15	0100CST								

Following recent heavy rains, the Arkansas River at Van Buren rose above its flood stage of 22 feet at 1000 AM on March 13. The river then crested at a level of 23.2 feet early on the morning of March 14 before falling back below flood stage at 100 AM on March 15.

ARZ001>002-010>011

Benton - Carroll - Washington - Madison

13	1500CST				0	0	20K		Heavy Snow
14	0800CST								

Summary of winter weather on March 13-14 1999:

A powerful upper level storm system moved eastward across southern Oklahoma and southern Arkansas on March 13 and 14. After heavy rains in advance of the system on the 12th, a band of precipitation established itself across the northwest corner of Arkansas on the afternoon of the 13th and then cold air moved in, changing the rain to snow. The band of heavy snow shifted east of the area shortly after sunrise. Visible satellite photos early on March 14 showed the southern extent of significant snow cover to be along the Boston Mountains.

The heavy wet snow weighed down and broke many tree limbs. Some of these tree limbs fell into power lines that caused scattered interruptions in electrical service. At the peak of the winter storm, 8,000 electric customers were without power across northwest Arkansas due to broken power lines caused by weighted-down trees breaking. Newspaper reports indicated that the area near Beaver Lake was the hardest-hit area, where whole trees had fallen and had to be cleared off of roadways. Numerous traffic accidents also resulted on Saturday afternoon.

Some snowfall totals include: Eureka Springs...16", Lowell...11", Bentonville...10+", Huntsville...10+", Fayetteville...8", and Siloam Springs...8".

ARZ019-029

Crawford - Sebastian

18	0500CST				0	0			Flood
21	0300CST								

The Arkansas River at Van Buren rose above its flood stage of 22 feet at 500 AM on March 18. The river then crested at a level of 22.6 feet early on the afternoon of March 19 before falling back below flood stage early on the morning of March 21.



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March 1999

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

OKLAHOMA, Eastern

Sequoyah County									
Sallisaw	05	1537CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Ottawa County									
Afton	05	1550CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Sequoyah County									
Liberty	05	1600CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Cherokee County									
Park Hill	05	1603CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Delaware County									
Jay	05	1644CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Le Flore County									
Muse	05	1650CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Le Flore County									
Page	05	1708CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)

Summary of events for March 5 1999:

Severe thunderstorms developed across far eastern Oklahoma during the afternoon of March 5 in advance of a well-defined cold front with the approach of an upper level disturbance. The first thunderstorms formed north of I-40 with later development taking place south of I-40 as a cap of warm air in the mid-levels of the atmosphere weakened. The primary threat from the storms in Oklahoma was hail as large as quarters.

Okmulgee County									
Henryetta	08	0633CST			0	0	4K		Lightning

A home in Henryetta was hit by lightning. The lightning blew siding off the house, bent an antenna, damaged the central heat/air, and destroyed several small appliances.

Tulsa County									
Tulsa	08	0700CST 0900CST			0	0			Urban/Sml Stream Fld

Two streets in Tulsa had to be closed due to heavy rain. They were Louisville Avenue between 68th and 70th Streets, and Sheridan Road between 95th and 97th Streets.

Osage County									
Tallant	08	1740CST			0	0	15K		Thunderstorm Wind

Strong winds blew several windows out of a mobile home. The mobile home was then lifted off of its foundation and laid back down seven feet north of its original foundation.

Tulsa County									
1.5 W Broken Arrow to .8 W Broken Arrow	08	1757CST 1758CST	0.7	50	0	0	100K		Tornado (F1)

A tornado touched down in Broken Arrow in the Turtle Creek subdivision just southwest of 81st Street (Houston Street) and 145th East Avenue (Aspen Avenue). The tornado then moved across Aspen Avenue into the Wedgewood subdivision, crossed 81st Street, nipping the southeast corner of the Aspen Creek subdivision. The tornado finally lifted near Park Grove Cemetery, which is on the north side of 81st Street about halfway between 145th and 161st East Avenue. Sixty homes received at least some minor F0-strength roof damage, but two homes in the Turtle Creek subdivision lost parts of their roofs, causing this tornado to be rated an F1 on the Fujita scale. Three buildings at an apartment complex just east of Aspen lost parts of their roofs, and a window was blown out. This tornado blew over numerous trees and privacy fences. An off-duty NWS employee located about three blocks south of where the tornado lifted reported wind gusts to 60 miles an hour lasting for less than one minute. At 606 PM, an aircraft pilot reported a funnel cloud near Broken Arrow.

Mcintosh County									
Burney to 1.2 E Burney	08	1807CST 1809CST	1.2	200	0	4	90K		Tornado (F2)



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OKLAHOMA, Eastern

A tornado first touched down near Burney, which is in western McIntosh County near mile marker 248 on Interstate 40. The tornado travelled parallel to and south of the interstate in the Tiger Mountain area but then crossed interstate 40 closest to mile marker 249 as it was lifting. Most of the damage from this tornado was F1-strength, but some F2-strength damage occurred.

The tornado first destroyed two mobile homes. Roofing from the first destroyed home was found 150 feet to the east, and a car was crushed in a car port. The second mobile home destroyed was a brand new double-wide that had recently been tied down. The mobile home rolled 30 to 40 feet and was totally destroyed. Four members of a family inside the home were injured, one of them critically. Two cars in a car port were damaged.

Further east, shingles were torn off the south and west sides of a house, and a tin shed was destroyed with debris scattered to the north and east. Another shed with appliances inside was destroyed. The tornado then passed near a small dwelling, where numerous large trees were down and a 20-foot pontoon was moved 15 feet over a tree. The tornado then hit another double-wide mobile home, which had its apron blown out on one side, had trim peeled off, and it had a window broken. Two nearby power poles were snapped off. Finally, the tornado passed a well-built two-story home. This home had shingles blown off the roof, windows broken, a sun porch was destroyed, a metal hay shed lost its roof, many large trees were blown down, two small storage sheds were destroyed, a 20-foot horse trailer rolled over, and a Ford F150 crew cab was moved 10 feet.

McIntosh County

**Pierce to
2 W Checotah**

08	1814CST 1826CST	9	100	0	0	910K	Tornado (F2)
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The same parent storm which produced a tornado near Burney and Tiger Mountain produced another tornado which touched down near Pierce. At Pierce, the tornado removed roofs from quite a few homes. In Pierce, the tornado also damaged vehicles and boats.

Further east, the tornado crossed Interstate 40 near Fountainhead Road (OK Hwy 150). As it crossed the interstate, four 18-wheelers were knocked over, but the drivers escaped injury. After crossing the interstate, the tornado travelled through the Sycamore Bay development, damaging ten to twelve homes. The damage included cracked ceilings, a destroyed garage, and shingles ripped off to the bare wood. One home was moved 30 feet from its foundation, and it took the roof off of another.

The tornado then crossed Lake Eufaula as a waterspout, destroying five boats and several docks at Emerald Bay. Once the tornado came back onshore, it hit Lotawatah Road, where it moved a double-wide mobile home from its foundation. Another home lost its roof, and outbuildings were destroyed. A trucking company was hit, destroying five 60-foot trailers and damaging others. The tornado then crossed Humphrey Road at a racing stable, destroying six of their structures and six corrals. When the tornado reached US Hwy 266, part of a home's roof collapsed, and a horse trailer was thrown on top of a barn, which then collapsed.

Along its entire path, numerous power poles were snapped off at the base. Spotters reported seeing two or three simultaneous tornadoes at times. Fortunately, the tornado lifted just before entering Checotah.

Rogers County

**3 NW Foyil to
1 NW Bushyhead**

08	1818CST 1821CST	2	50	0	0	20K	Tornado (F1)
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A garage was heavily damaged by an F1 tornado. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol reported a tornado 4 miles west of Chelsea near Allen Point. Several mobile homes in the Spencer Creek mobile home park sustained roof and siding damage.

Rogers County

2 NNW Foyil

08	1818CST	0.5	50	0	0	5K	Tornado (F1)
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A brief F1-tornado touchdown ripped the roof off of a block house.

Muskogee County

Haskell

08	1820CST			0	0	8K	Thunderstorm Wind
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A large picture window was blown out of the enclosed porch of a home, and an empty chicken house was blown over onto its side.

Muskogee County

Muskogee

08	1824CST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
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Muskogee County

1 W Warner

08	1824CST			0	0		Hail (0.88)
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Rogers County

Inola

08	1825CST			0	0	13K	Thunderstorm Wind
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Strong winds estimated at 60 miles an hour blew a 30-foot section of roof off of a house in downtown Inola. A fence and basketball goal in the back yard were also blown over. Nearby, a church sustained roof damage, a tree was blown onto a house, a shed was blown away, and two power poles were blown over.

Wagoner County

2 NNE Choska

08	1825CST			0	0	1.5K	Thunderstorm Wind
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Three power poles near Stone's Corner were snapped.



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OKLAHOMA, Eastern

Muskogee County

Porum	08	1828CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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Cherokee County

3 W Hulbert	08	1830CST			0	0	0.20K		Thunderstorm Wind
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Numerous large tree limbs were blown down near Fort Gibson Lake.

Mayes County

2 SE Chouteau	08	1830CST			0	0	0.10K		Thunderstorm Wind
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Several large tree limbs were blown down.

Muskogee County

4 ENE Muskogee	08	1830CST			0	0	30K		Thunderstorm Wind
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The steel frame of a warehouse under construction was destroyed near the Port of Muskogee.

Wagoner County

Porter	08	1830CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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McIntosh County

2.5 E Shady Grove to 3 E Shady Grove	08	1843CST	0.5	30	0	0			Tornado (F0)
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The same parent thunderstorm that spawned the earlier tornado further west in McIntosh County again spawned a brief tornado touchdown about three miles west of Warner in far eastern McIntosh County. No damage was reported with this touchdown.

Nowata County

1 S Elliot	08	1844CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
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Mayes County

1 S Pryor	08	1845CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
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Muskogee County

Braggs	08	1850CST 1852CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
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Sequoyah County

Gore	08	1859CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
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Cherokee County

Qualls	08	1900CST			0	0	0.10K		Thunderstorm Wind
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Several tree limbs were blown down in Qualls.

Delaware County

Zena	08	1915CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
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Adair County

Christie	08	1920CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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Delaware County

1 S Grove	08	1920CST			0	0	0.60K		Thunderstorm Wind
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A tree limb and a power line were knocked down by strong winds.

Summary of events for March 8 1999:

A band of moderate to heavy rain moved across the area during the morning of March 8 in association with a warm front out in advance of a low pressure center. The rain brought localized nuisance flooding. Once the morning rains passed, warmer air moved into eastern Oklahoma during the afternoon, and an upper level low with lots of cold air aloft moved into the area. Thunderstorms then erupted late in the afternoon along an eastward moving dryline/cold front. Some of these thunderstorms displayed characteristics of low-precipitation supercells which then produced damaging tornadoes, most notably in McIntosh County and at Broken Arrow in Tulsa County. The Broken Arrow tornado occurred miles behind any radar-indicated thunderstorm activity and was possibly the result of a cold-air funnel under the cold upper low which reached the ground.

Tulsa County

Tulsa	12	1220CST			0	0	10K		Lightning
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A lightning strike caused a house fire in the 4800 block of South Victor Avenue.



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OKLAHOMA, Eastern

Okmulgee County

Okmulgee	12	1400CST 1600CST			0	0			Urban/Sml Stream Fld
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Heavy rains put several city streets under one or two feet of water.

OKZ054>056-059

Osage - Washington - Nowata - Pawnee

	12	1500CST 2000CST			0	0			Heavy Snow
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Adair County

Countywide

	12	1830CST 2030CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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About 2 to 3 inches of rain forced the closing of several county roads west of Stilwell. A county road over Caney Creek was closed due to high water.

Summary of winter weather on March 12 1999:

A band of heavy rainfall moved across eastern Oklahoma on the afternoon and early evening of March 12 ahead of a powerful upper level storm system, bringing widespread rainfall amounts of one to three inches of rain. At the north end of this band where temperatures were in the mid 30s, heavy snow and sleet fell for a short time in Osage, Pawnee, Washington and Nowata Counties. In northwestern Osage County, three inches of snow and sleet accumulated at Shidler, and two inches accumulated on the ground at Grainola. Cars in Pawhuska were covered with one inch of snow by 745 PM. Roads in Washington County turned slushy. Nowata County had 15 cars slide off of roads into ditches due to the wintry conditions. Later in the evening, snow changed back to rain and most of the snow had melted off by midnight.

OKZ076

Le Flore

	13	0900CST 150500CST			0	0			Flood
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Following heavy rains, the Poteau River near Panama rose above its flood stage of 29 feet at 9 AM on March 13. The river crested at a level of 31.9 feet on the morning of March 14 before falling back below flood stage early on the morning of March 15.

OKZ054>070

Osage - Washington - Nowata - Craig - Ottawa - Pawnee - Tulsa - Rogers - Mayes - Delaware - Creek - Okfuskee - Okmulgee - Wagoner - Cherokee - Adair - Muskogee

	13	1500CST			0	0	21K		Heavy Snow
	14	0700CST							

Summary of winter storm on March 13-14 1999:

A powerful upper level storm system moving eastward along the Red River valley brought one of the top winter storms on record to the area. After spending much of March 13 in a cold rain, cold air associated with the upper system finally moved firmly enough into the area to cause a gradual changeover to snow around 3 PM. The heaviest snowfall amounts were generally in the northeast corner of Oklahoma, although a snow "burst" associated with thunder and lightning over Creek County caused very high amounts of snow there as well. The snow quickly ended around sunrise of March 14, and even the heaviest snow had melted off by the end of the day on March 15.

The snow burst in Creek County caused numerous traffic accidents along I-44 through Creek County, and the interstate had to be closed. Several churches in Bristow opened their doors to a total of 450 stranded motorists, while other motorists became stranded in their cars. The weight of the snow caused a carport to collapse in Drumright, damaging a truck underneath.

The heavy wet snow weighted down and broke numerous trees and tree limbs throughout northeast Oklahoma. Trees falling onto power lines caused scattered power outages throughout the area. Eight thousand electrical customers in Tulsa lost their electricity, while 2,300 power customers around Grove suffered power outages. Vinita was one of the hardest-hit communities in terms of downed trees and power outages.

The following is a list of snowfall amounts from March 13-14: Miami...15", Bristow...14", Vinita...12+", Jay...10-12", Sapulpa...9-10", Pawnee...9", Bartlesville...8", Pawhuska...6-8", Claremore...6-8", Nowata...7", Hominy...6-7", NWS Tulsa (Northeast Tulsa)...6.2", Stilwell...6", Pryor...4-6", Okmulgee...3-5", Wagoner...3-5", Tahlequah...4" and Muskogee...2-3".

OKZ066

Okmulgee

	17	0000CST			0	0			Flood
	20	0800CST							

Following heavy rains and quick upstream snowmelt several days earlier, the Deep Fork River near Beggs rose above its flood stage of 18 feet at the start of March 17. The river then crested at 19.7 feet late on the morning of March 18 before falling back below its flood stage on the morning of March 20.

Creek County

Drumright

	22	2050CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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OKLAHOMA, Eastern

Creek County									
Oilton	22	2050CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Creek County									
Mannford	22	2101CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Tulsa County									
Tulsa	22	2127CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
			Location: near the Tisdale Expressway and Pine						
Adair County									
Bunch	22	2330CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Pittsburg County									
Kiowa	23	0012CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Okfuskee County									
Bearden	23	0100CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Pushmataha County									
8 W Eubanks	23	0100CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Pushmataha County									
4 NNE Finley	23	0109CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Le Flore County									
Fanshawe	23	0136CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Latimer County									
Gowen	23	0200CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)

Summary of events for March 22-23 1999:

On the evening of March 22, a strong cold front pushed southeast out of Kansas. Eventually, a strong cap of warm air in the mid-levels of the atmosphere broke and allowed severe thunderstorms to form along the front over northeast Oklahoma. The first severe thunderstorm developed over Payne County and then moved east through northern Creek County and then into the northern part of the city of Tulsa. As the front moved south into southeast and east central Oklahoma, thunderstorms became less organized with shorter life cycles, creating a more random pattern to the severe weather reports. Except for the first and strongest severe thunderstorm of the night, the remainder of the severe storms contained only marginally severe hail.