

# 2013 Severe Weather Fact Sheet

## National Weather Service Lincoln, IL

### Severe Weather Impacts

- The **United States experiences more tornadoes than any other country** in the world! An average of 1,300 tornadoes impact the U.S. every year.
- **Illinois averages about 46 tornadoes** each year. Last year, only 31 tornadoes were reported in Illinois. However, 112 people were injured and nine were killed – many due to the EF-4 tornado that struck Harrisburg, IL during the early morning hours of February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Tornadoes in Illinois have killed 212 people, and injured 4,254 since 1950.
- Nearly 80% of Illinois tornadoes have occurred from April through June. While the peak time for tornadoes is the late afternoon and early evening, about one-third has occurred at night.
- The biggest tornado outbreak in Illinois since 1950 occurred on **April 19, 1996**. A total of 41 tornadoes were reported on that day, including four F3 tornadoes. One person was killed, 70 people were injured, and property damage exceeded \$100 Million.
- High wind from **downbursts and straight-line winds** cause **more damage than nearly 75% of the tornadoes** that occur in Illinois! Illinois averages around 550 reports of thunderstorm related wind damage each year.
- A total of **17 people have died from damaging winds in Illinois the past 10 years**. In 2012 there were 13 people injured by severe thunderstorm related wind.

### Central / Southeast Illinois Severe Weather Statistics

- Of the top 15 counties with the most tornadoes in the state, **9 are in central or eastern Illinois**. These are:

**Logan** (ranked #2), **McLean** (#3), **Sangamon** (#4), **Tazewell** (#5), **Woodford** (#7), **Champaign** (#10), **Piatt** (#11), **Macon** (#13) and **Vermilion** (#15). [Data based on tornadoes per 100 square miles from 1950-2012]

- Since 2008, about 80% of all severe weather events (damaging winds, tornadoes and large hail) in central and southeast Illinois had advance warning by the NWS in Lincoln, with an average lead time of 18 minutes.
- During the past 10 years, the calendar date with the most occurrences of severe weather in central and eastern Illinois has been **May 25<sup>th</sup>**. Severe storms occurred **six times** on that date between 2003 and 2012.

Six calendar dates had severe weather occur **five times**, including **May 13<sup>th</sup>** and **30<sup>th</sup>**, **June 13<sup>th</sup>**, **21<sup>st</sup>**, and **27<sup>th</sup>**, and **July 21<sup>st</sup>**.

### **Other Impacts of Severe Weather Warnings**

- NWS Implementation of storm based warnings for smaller areas, and portions of counties, resulted in a **78% reduction of false alarms across central and eastern Illinois from 2010 through 2012**.
- **In 2013**, NWS offices in the Midwest (including the Lincoln, IL office) will be putting **enhanced wording in all Tornado Warnings**. This is intended to improve communications of the anticipated threats and impacts of tornadoes. Specific information in the warning will highlight the tornadoes that are expected to produce, or confirm the occurrence of, considerable or catastrophic damage.

### **Severe Weather Preparedness**

- The National Weather Service's goal is to build a "**Weather Ready Nation**". The purpose of this initiative is to save lives as well as livelihoods. By increasing the nation's weather readiness the country will be better prepared to protect, mitigate, respond to, and recover from weather-related disasters.
- The National Weather Service urges people to become a "**Force of Nature**". Being a "Force of Nature" goes beyond taking appropriate preparedness action. It is about inspiring others to do the same. One way to do this is through social media. Use Facebook, Twitter, other social media sites, and texting to share preparedness information and NWS hazardous weather alerts with your friends and family.

Visit our website at: [www.weather.gov/Lincoln](http://www.weather.gov/Lincoln) for the latest weather and river forecasts, warnings, current conditions, radar & satellite imagery, and climate information.