

*National Weather Service Session:*  
**Building a Weather-Ready Wisconsin**

**45<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Conference**  
**Appleton, WI**

Jeff Last, Todd Shea, Rusty Kapela, Carol Christenson, Todd Krause  
NOAA National Weather Service



# Building a Weather-Ready Wisconsin

## Today's speakers:

Jeff Last, NWS Green Bay

Todd Shea, NWS La Crosse

Rusty Kapela, NWS Milwaukee/Sullivan

Carol Christenson, NWS Duluth

Todd Krause, NWS Twin Cities

# Building a Weather-Ready Wisconsin

## I. Storm Surveys for Emergency Managers

Todd Shea and Jeff Last

## II. What If:

### Moving the EF5 Joplin Tornado Through Madison

Rusty Kapela, Carol Christenson, Todd Krause

## III. Weather Outlook for Summer 2012

Rusty Kapela

NOAA - National Weather Service



# Storm Assessment



# TSI: TORNADO SCENE INVESTIGATION



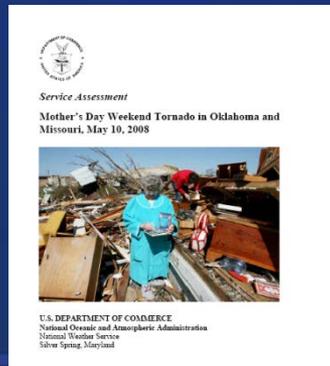
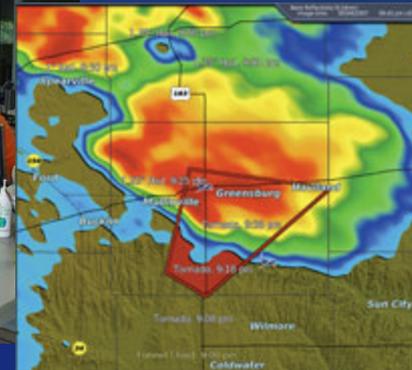


# Damage Surveys



# Why survey damage?

- Need to document what happened!
  - State, County, Local officials
  - Insurance Companies
  - Official record (Storm Data)
  - National Weather Service
    - Review services
    - Science / Research



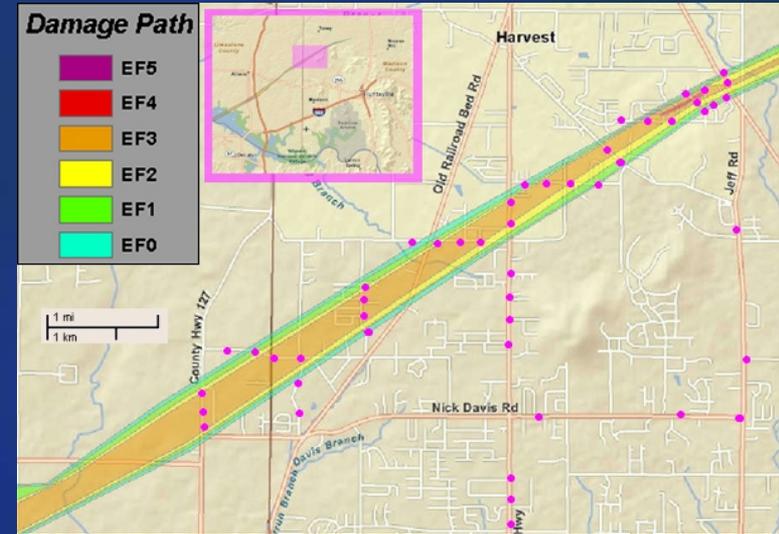
# When is damage surveyed?

- After a “significant” weather event
  - Widespread damage
  - Injuries / Fatalities
  - Large media interest
  - Type of storm is in question
- Time frame...
  - Hours (if possible)
  - 1-2 days (local assessment)
  - 3-7 days (group assessment; detailed)



# What is surveyed?

- Location of damage
  - Width, path, length
- Type of damage
- Intensity of damage
  - Peak wind speeds, rating
- Time damage occurred
- Cause of damage (can be tough!)
- Public actions and observations



# Types of Damage Surveys

- Ground (most common)
  - Quick check on damage
  - Drive around, few interviews, document
  - Extensive detail (construction, buildings, etc.)
- Aerial
  - For widespread damage
  - Good for remote areas
  - Usually arranged thru Civil Air Patrol (CAP)



# The Survey

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- Need to examine ALL evidence (“big picture”) before making determination

# The Survey

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- Damage is cleaned up right away
  - The longer you wait, the less evidence you have
- Coordination with Law Enforcement
- Having specific locations helps greatly
- “Gawkers” are everywhere
- It’s a BIG deal if it happens to you
- Respect those who were impacted
- Most people are nice and willing to help
- Safety comes first!

# “Gawkers”



# The Survey



# The Survey



# The Survey



# Storm / Damage Myths

- It had to be a tornado because...
  - “It sounded like a freight train”
  - “I heard a roar”
  - “Only tornadoes do that much damage...”
  - “The trees are twisted”
- “It struck without warning!”



# Storm Damage Challenges

- Determining time of event
- People get emotional about the tornado rating...
  - “It had to be worst than that!”
- The media wants to know what happened NOW!



# Types of Damage Surveys

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- Hail
- Flooding
- Wind
- Tornado
- Winter?

