Palm Sunday Outbreaks
Posted by jcpalmer - 2010/03/29 10:17

Yesterday's events made me think about how often we have severe weather on Palm Sunday.

Google only gave me three outbreaks, but I know that there have been many significant events on Palm Sunday. This is what it gives me:

Palm Sunday 1920
Palm Sunday 1965 (obviously)
Palm Sunday 1994

Palm Sunday of 1994 stands out in my memory. Obviously, this was another "close to home" severe weather event for me. I won't forget driving that morning and hearing "Tornado Warning" for my county coming over the radio. Back then, I didn't really know what to do. Nowadays, I would've pulled up the radar on my phone, or even better, I would've KNOWN about severe weather heading my way before I got in my car. I decided to keep driving (big dummy) through quarter size hail and rain so intense I had to pull over on the side of the interstate (even BIGGER dummy). My parents were in Las Vegas, and it was my first experience being home alone. I was terrified of storms then, so after that, I drove and spent the rest of the day at my sister's house watching the events unfold to the south of us.

The F1 in Walker County (Rossville) was what I was driving in, around, whatever! It had just left Walker county and was heading into Catoosa county, although no tornado was confirmed in my county.

The most memorable part of that day was the F4 that struck the Goshen United Methodist Church, where 22 people were killed during Sunday services. I watched a special on this event on National Geographic and the pastor lost her very young daughter during the storm. It was so heartbreaking! However, if I remember correctly, the town got sirens and the church was rebuilt with a proper storm shelter!

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1994_Palm_Sunday_tornado_outbreak

What other Palm Sunday events do you remember?

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Re:Palm Sunday Outbreaks
Posted by WeatherMan24 - 2010/03/29 14:04

Very good post, jc! Nice to know about your experience with the outbreak. I don't remember any other Palm Sunday outbreaks at the moment, but if I think of any I'll be sure to post them.

Karma point will be sent your way for posting this soon!

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Re:Palm Sunday Outbreaks
Posted by jcpalmer - 2010/03/29 23:22

It's funny. I used to think I didn't have that many close encounters with severe weather, until I start thinking about all these events close to home.

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Re:Palm Sunday Outbreaks
Posted by Hydrogen - 2010/03/31 14:55

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Hehe I was the same way up until the end of last year. I was like "We don't get any severe weather like that around here!" I started looking into historical weather events and low and behold... *freaks out*.

Information about this sort of stuff is rarely released to the public around here. You have to do your own digging to find out if there was any severe weather nearby. :blink:

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Re:Palm Sunday Outbreaks
Posted by JHines - 2010/07/02 18:43

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my main one i remember was the good friday ef-4 that ripped through murfreesboro last year. i know its not palm sunday. i was across town from it but was getting pelted with massive amount of hail. was probably a little larger then pea sized. i was out on the balcony until i started getting pelted with hail so i closed the screen door and was standing behind it trying to see anything i could (which wasnt much in the apt complex. i had the news on and could faintly hear the 1 tornado siren the county has and only reason i could hear it was because i lived not far from the college campus which is where the siren is. it took me an hour and a half to get to work that day because all main roads were closed and most side roads were closed as well. the next day me an my wife went out to volunteer with the red cross but wasnt able to do much. we ended up driving around and witnessed the damage of it. the damage was unbelieveable. this is my main encounter that sticks out. sorry for the length of this.

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Re:Palm Sunday Outbreaks
Posted by jcpalmer - 2010/07/04 11:22

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That Good Friday definitely stands out in my mind, too, Jesse. I spent a good deal of that day in the basement, and it was the first time I remember seeing green skies. It was really weird. I watched as a tornado warned storm came right over my house (it is the first time I ever remember them calling out my NEIGHBORHOOD on TV when they were showing the radar). The skies were green and then it got black. I watched out the window as the tree swayed in one direction, and then it abruptly changed directions! If only I had been videoing, but once I saw that wind change directions I got underneath the futon mattress with my puppy!

Not as exciting a story as yours, but still a day I'll never forget!

I watched that EF4 that hit Murfreesboro cross I-24 on the traffic camera! That was absolutely insane! There are some amazing videos of that tornado on youtube, also! Murfreesboro is a tornado magnet, I

swear!

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Re:Palm Sunday Outbreaks
Posted by JHines - 2010/07/07 06:58

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i always thought the opposite.. that we really didnt get anything, til i found the records for the county. a major one hits about every 4 years or so. one of our parts drivers was on the interstate when the tornado crossed the road right in front of her. my instinct is always to go outside and try see what i can until a) cloud to ground lightening (then i move inside and stare out the window) or b) i get pelted with hail or heavy winds, but usual it ends up being the lightening i take cover inside for.

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Re:Palm Sunday Outbreaks
Posted by jcpalmer - 2010/07/07 09:51

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Yes! There have been several events that stand out in my head! Have you seen the video of the tornado that hit downtown Nashville? In 1998, the tornado struck the downtown area!!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWKxVmpdtKg

Down here, our storms get torn up by the mountains before they reach us.

It's not always the case.. There have been a few incidents I remember, but Murfreesboro/Nashville always gets the interesting weather.

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Re:Palm Sunday Outbreaks
Posted by JHines - 2010/07/07 17:32

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i have not seen the video before. guys i work with have told me stories about watching go through downtown. i wasn't living in TN at the time this happened. didn't move down here til '04. Thanks for sharing it with me though. :)

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Re:Palm Sunday Outbreaks
Posted by jcpalmer - 2012/03/27 15:52

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In memory of the March 27, 1994 event, I've been doing some research on the event.

http://www.spc.noaa.gov/publications/hales/palm.htm

This is very interesting....

Also, the ABC 33/40 guys have the special they aired on the 10 year anniversary on their blog today!

http://www.alabamawx.com/?p=58546

And one more.. A young James Spann.. :)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCy69mQbnws

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Re:Palm Sunday Outbreaks
Posted by SkyEyeJo - 2012/03/27 15:58

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I remember hearing about the Church and all the people who perished there. So tragic... :(

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Re:Palm Sunday Outbreaks
Posted by jcpalmer - 2012/03/27 16:12

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The didn't hear the warnings, and they were all gathered for Palm Sunday services. :(

I found this, too!!!

Some light reading... :P

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/assessments/pdfs/palmsunday.pdf

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