

## April 25 - 28/ Tornado Outbreak, 2011

Posted by SkyEyeJo - 2011/12/21 21:48

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After posting the NWS Service Assessment for 4/27/11, I noticed that the majority of threads concerning this particular outbreak are scattered hither and yon; mainly in the reports/discussion category.

It appears we were all eager to contribute what we could find for a period after the event and the massive influx of information on so many individual tornadoes plus the subsequent tragedy of Joplin's devastation threw us into a state of overload and postings just petered out.

Anyway, now that the quiet winter season is well upon us, I thought I'd get an official thread up dealing with the three day outbreak. There's also a thread covering just the 27th alone, which will probably be confusing, but either/or, the 27th can certainly be discussed here.

Note: Not only are the threads scattered all over confusing, but I've noticed that even the NWS is having problems compartmentalizing such a large event. Some sites cover the 25th-27th, some, 27th-28th and a few the 24th - 28th, so, for you date nitpickers, don't look at me, hey!

With the Holidays upon us, I'll begin with a simple link (or two).

Again - check the dates on these. :S

A link on the beginning, which, technically 'began' on the night of the 24th:

[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/shv/events/select.php?date=04262011\\_1](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/shv/events/select.php?date=04262011_1)

And a little overlapping:

[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/?n=2011\\_04\\_25\\_27\\_svr](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/?n=2011_04_25_27_svr)

Summary N/Cntrl GA, 4/27-28.

Note: I've seen a few conflicting reports on damage paths for NW GA and this summary contains preliminary info per those paths, as noted above the map.

[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/?n=20110427\\_svrstorms](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/?n=20110427_svrstorms)

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## Re:April 25 - 28/ Tornado Outbreak, 2011

Posted by gasorg - 2011/12/21 22:32

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SPC was certainly all over the place with the dates and times in their reports. The EF-2 which struck my childhood hometown (Erin, NY) in the wee hours of the morning of April 28, was originally correctly listed in the reports for that day. This is where I first got the news. Curiously, it was moved to the April 27 reports several months later and continues to languish there.

Scroll about halfway down to find it:

[http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/reports/110427\\_rpts.html](http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/reports/110427_rpts.html)

The local NWS office (Binghamton) correctly continues to show it as taking place on April 28:

[http://www.erh.noaa.gov/bgm/WeatherEvents/Severe/april25-282011/ef2\\_erin.shtml](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/bgm/WeatherEvents/Severe/april25-282011/ef2_erin.shtml)

I remember all those buildings in the pictures of the damage, even though the last of my family moved

out of the area over 17 years ago.

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**Re:April 25 - 28/ Tornado Outbreak, 2011**

Posted by SkyEyeJo - 2011/12/21 22:57

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The big boy:

[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/bmx/?n=event\\_04272011tuscbrm](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/bmx/?n=event_04272011tuscbrm)

I'm searching around; I'm not finding any final summaries on the 27th (per damage). Pretty telling that it's taking this long.

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**Re:April 25 - 28/ Tornado Outbreak, 2011**

Posted by jcpalmer - 2011/12/22 11:03

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The morning storms were a huge part of the issue, IMO, as they point out in the survey.

A lot of people were without power from the morning storms, including here in Chattanooga.

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**Re:April 25 - 28/ Tornado Outbreak, 2011**

Posted by SkyEyeJo - 2011/12/22 14:50

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I well remember that, Jenn. I was sitting tight here watching Dennis Sherrod live streaming the damage. Even with all the advanced forecasting, it still came as a shock when everything came together and exploded and I was aware of the potential - some of those folks never had a clue.

On the other hand, a lot of lives were saved by simple phone calls from family/friends. Something to be said about holding on to your land line. :)

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**Re:April 25 - 28/ Tornado Outbreak, 2011**

Posted by jcpalmer - 2011/12/23 10:43

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Also, people were deceived by the sunshine! I remember as we were leaving work that day telling people that more was coming and hearing people say "But the sun is shining!"

I'm only able to gradually read this so I'll keep adding nuggets of information as we go here.

There were just so many things that possibly contributed to the chaos that day.

They mention that the Hunstville radar went down, pretty much at the worst possible time. From Birmingham northward there was no power at all in Alabama during the height of the storm and for many days afterwards. Chattanooga is both too far from OHX, MRX, and FFC, as is most of north Alabama and northern Georgia.

I also found it interesting that MRX which impacted their awareness of the violence of the situation in the Chattanooga area, because they couldn't monitor our media outlets. I don't know.. I'm not trying to judge here, but.. our news stations were streaming live all day long not to mention, looking at radar alone would be a key to the gravity of the situation.

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### Re:April 25 - 28/ Tornado Outbreak, 2011

Posted by jstar79 - 2012/02/23 00:27

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I just posted a picture from a tornado warned storm during this outbreak, but in Denton, TX. I don't remember if it was the 25th or 27th, but it was in the afternoon. No tornado was dropped, only a funnel cloud \*thankfully!!\* I wasn't chasing, I was in the crosshairs! (I have never storm chased....yet! Unless watching mesos and funnels from my house counts.)

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### Re:April 25 - 28/ Tornado Outbreak, 2011

Posted by jcpalmer - 2012/04/25 09:11

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It is extremely hard to believe nearly a year has passed since that horrible day.

Still for me, this is one of those "days" that I remember nearly every detail of the entire day. I have a feeling that won't fade.

I still have a great deal of difficulty watching video from that day, knowing so many people died.

Here's a very moving tribute put together about the tragedy in Alabama:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=jjvSkbfU7tU&noredirect=1#](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=jjvSkbfU7tU&noredirect=1#)

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### Re:April 25 - 28/ Tornado Outbreak, 2011

Posted by jcpalmer - 2012/04/26 10:10

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April 25th 2011:

MDT Risk was issued for the entire state of Arkansas, parts of Texas, Oklahoma, and Mississippi.

Reports and Outlook overlayed:

[http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/outlook/archive/2011/day1otlk\\_v\\_20110425\\_2000.gif](http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/outlook/archive/2011/day1otlk_v_20110425_2000.gif)

April 26th, 2011:

HIGH risk for severe weather was issued for pretty much the same place that was affected on the 26th.

Reports and Outlook overlayed:

[http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/outlook/archive/2011/day1otlk\\_v\\_20110426\\_2000.gif](http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/outlook/archive/2011/day1otlk_v_20110426_2000.gif)

49 tornado reports on the 25th and 125 tornado reports on the 26th.

On April 26th, we chased in Eastern Arkansas near Memphis, TN. We encountered a pretty epic supercell near Haynes, AR. We encountered tornado-ish damage near West Memphis, AR. This tornado never made the tornado reports, most likely due to the overwhelming amount of investigations that would have to be conducted after April 27th.

I have to wonder how many "minor" tornado damage paths were overlooked, because there just wasn't enough time to look at everything.

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### Re:April 25 - 28/ Tornado Outbreak, 2011

Posted by jcpalmer - 2012/04/26 15:17

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The photo attached with this article says a lot...

<http://timesfreepress.com/news/2012/apr/26/devastation-launches-monumental-recovery/>

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### Re:April 25 - 28/ Tornado Outbreak, 2011

Posted by SkyEyeJo - 2012/04/26 15:58

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As does reading the article and seeing the photo of Calvin Parris' entryway in his rebuilt home. :)

And now...Archives from the 33/40 Wx Blog for April 26, 2011; one day prior to the largest tornadic day (statistically and otherwise)of the Outbreak:

<http://www.alabamawx.com/?m=20110426>

Note the ramp-up of concern during the progression.

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## Re:April 25 - 28/ Tornado Outbreak, 2011

Posted by jcpalmer - 2012/04/27 10:05

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It started before the sun even came up.

The QLCS from the night before continued to march eastward. Tornado warnings extended from N Central Alabama to middle TN. The tornadoes and strong winds that came from the morning system would cut off power to thousands.

We had a break for a couple of hours. In fact, in our area, there was already an attempt to begin clean up in the Tiftonia/Red Bank/Harrison area from those tornadoes. We had lost power at work, and they sent us home.

Then, I remember watching this.... just jaw dropping. All of these tornadoes were just insane to watch.

Cullman, AL tornado as covered by ABC 33/40:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmI9\\_\\_WLR7Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmI9__WLR7Q)

Then, of course, the tragedy in Tuscaloosa as covered by ABC 33/40:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sA7TKSHJ\\_wM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sA7TKSHJ_wM)

Storm Chaser John Brown's now famous footage:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRGkCZmjVXI>

The Tuscaloosa and the Cullman tornadoes were unlike anything I have ever seen. The crazy horizontal vortices....

I just know at some point, we just decided to stay in our basement and not come up. hahaha.. So many tornado warnings.

Around 8:20pm, we were placed under a tornado warning in my county. Sitting in the basement, little did we know only about a couple of miles away this was happening..

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t509ZWYDvA0>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4h8MGK7CUFY&feature=related>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOkKAG\\_obNs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOkKAG_obNs)

A good portion of Ringgold Middle School was destroyed as well as some of the high school, including the baseball field and the football field where I watched my niece march in band and my hubby played football. Here is a local story on how Ringgold Baseball has recovered:

[http://www.newschannel9.com/sports/features/headlines/stories/vid\\_84.shtml](http://www.newschannel9.com/sports/features/headlines/stories/vid_84.shtml)

SPC Outlook and overlay of reports:

[http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/outlook/archive/2011/day1otlk\\_v\\_20110427\\_2000.gif](http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/outlook/archive/2011/day1otlk_v_20110427_2000.gif)

And on this day.. I'm going to remember those who lost so much one year ago today and count my every blessing.

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## Re:April 25 - 28/ Tornado Outbreak, 2011

Posted by SkyEyeJo - 2012/05/02 13:57

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From Birmingham WFO; full summary/stats for Cntrl AL concerning the outbreak activity on April 27th, 2011:

[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/bmx/?n=event\\_04272011](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/bmx/?n=event_04272011)

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