

# **2011 Severe Weather Fact Sheet**

## **National Weather Service Lincoln, IL**

### **Hazardous 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. The country that has the second most number of tornadoes is China – they average about 100 each year. **Illinois averages about 44 tornadoes** each year.
- The **most storm-related fatalities in the United States**, over the past 30 years, **have been attributed to floods** (average of 93 each year); followed by lightning (57), and tornadoes (57).
- The tornado outbreak of **June 5, 2010** resulted in 19 tornadoes across northern and central Illinois. One person was killed and 31 people injured in these tornadoes, which also produced about \$100 Million in damage. This was the **7<sup>th</sup> largest tornado outbreak in Illinois** since 1950, and the most since the outbreak of April 2, 2006 when 36 tornadoes affected the state.
- Tornadoes in Illinois have killed 203 people, and injured 4,130 since 1950.
- High wind from **straight-line winds and downbursts** cause **more damage than nearly 75% of the tornadoes** that occur in Illinois! A total of **15 people have died from damaging winds in Illinois the past 10 years** – nearly the same number has been killed by tornadoes (17).

### **Central / Southeast Illinois Severe Weather Statistics**

- 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 19 minutes**.
- The **peak of our severe weather season** extends from the **last week of March through the middle of September**.

- 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** (#8), **Macon** (#11), **Champaign** (#12), **Piatt** (#13), and **Coles** (#14). [Data based on tornadoes per 1,000 square miles from 1950-2010]

- During the past 10 years, the calendar date with most occurrences of severe weather in central and eastern Illinois have been **May 25<sup>th</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup>**. Severe storms occurred 6 times on those dates between 2001 and 2010.

Several calendar dates had severe weather occur 5 times, including May 13<sup>th</sup>, May 26<sup>th</sup>, May 30<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Economic and Other Impacts of Weather Forecasts & Warnings**

- NWS Implementation of storm based warnings for smaller areas, and portions of counties, resulted in an **78% reduction in false alarms across central and eastern Illinois in 2010**. It is projected that this improvement will save U.S. businesses and the public nearly \$100 million in sheltering costs each year (e.g. lost business, lost productivity, etc...).
- The cost of NWS services for the average central or southeast Illinois household is only about \$7.00 per year. *(Based on NWS and Census Bureau statistics)*

### **The National Weather Service mission:**

**The National Weather Service provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. The NWS is the sole United States OFFICIAL voice for issuing warnings during life-threatening weather situations.**

Visit our Internet homepage 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.