

# **2012 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. In 2011, nearly 1,700 tornadoes affected our country. **Illinois averages about 46 tornadoes** each year. Last year, 73 tornadoes were reported in Illinois.
- The **tornadoes in the United States during 2011 resulted in 550 fatalities, which was the most since 1925**. Many of these occurred during two large outbreaks – one in the last half of April, and another in the last week of May. **More than 5,400 people were injured by tornadoes in the U.S. last year.**
- The tornado outbreak of **April 19, 2011** resulted in 21 tornadoes across central and southern Illinois. One of these tornadoes produced significant damage in and near the town of Girard. A total of 4 people were injured in these tornadoes, which also produced about \$10 Million in damage. This was the **5<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 4,142 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 **17 people have died from damaging winds in Illinois the past 10 years** – nearly the same number killed by tornadoes.

### **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 18 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** (#9), **Champaign** (#11), **Macon** (#12), **Piatt** (#13), and **Douglas** (#15). [Data based on tornadoes per 1,000 square miles from 1950-2011]

- 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 **seven times** on that date between 2002 and 2011.

Three calendar dates had severe weather occur **six times**, including **May 13<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 a **78% reduction of false alarms across central and eastern Illinois in 2010 AND 2011**. 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.