

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

### **Updated** FTR for Severe Weather and Tornadoes in South Central Kansas

**SID:** DDC

**From:** WFO Dodge City, Kansas Frederick Kruse and Ray Burgert Lead Forecasters  
Jim Keeney, Michael Lewis - CRH

**Date:** 2007-05-05

**Subject:** Severe Weather and Tornadoes in South Central Kansas

**Event:** Low pressure over northeastern New Mexico deepened during the afternoon as a dryline pushed east across southwest Kansas. Severe thunderstorms developed during the late afternoon along and ahead of the dryline on Friday, May 4th along the Kansas/Oklahoma border. Several supercell thunderstorms moved rapidly northeastward into South-Central Kansas. A number of tornadoes with up to softball hail and significant damage were reported.

**Location:** Across South-Central Kansas from Clark County northeastward across Kiowa, Edwards, and into Stafford County, Kansas.

**Office:** WFO Dodge City, Kansas

**Deaths:** **8 deaths in Greensburg, KS**, 1 death in a nearby county  
2 Fatalities one dead on arrival from Greensburg received at the Dodge City Western Plains Hospital. Another at Hopewell in far northwest Pratt county by media.

**Injuries:** At least 63 transported to Dodge City Western Plains and Pratt Hospitals.  
Unconfirmed by TV media of 16 critically injured.

**Damage:** **\*\*\*Updated Information\*\*\***

**Local WFO survey team with QRT member Dan McCarthy have determined the Greensburg, KS tornado to be a low end EF5 with estimated winds of 205 mph. Path length was 22 miles long and a width of 1.7 miles wide.**

**The City of Greensburg (Kiowa County) was hit directly by the tornado. Local reports indicate 80-90% of the town was destroyed or damaged with only the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) building left standing. Greensburg with a population of 1,500 lost 100% of their electrical power.**

**City of Claflin (Barton County) with a population of 682 lost 100% power to their city.**

**\*\*\* Previous Information\*\*\*** From FEMA Region 7 briefing:  
Tornado started in Comanche County, KS went through 3 to 6 counties.  
Preliminary assessment by National Guard Response team and FEMA suggests a tornado path in excess of 40 miles long. NWS team still assessing.

Widespread communications outages throughout the region.

In the town of Greensburg, nearly 100% destruction; population approximately 1500 displaced. Shelters have been established in surrounding counties and communities. No shelters available in Greensburg.

**\*\*\* Previous Information \*\*\***

Media reports that 60 percent of Greensburg in Kiowa county had major damage from large tornado that at times was estimated to be a wedge tornado at 3/4 of a mile wide just before striking Greensburg. Also a house and barn reported destroyed south of Macksville in Stafford county. 6 to 7 houses destroyed from 1 west of Trousdale to 3 north of Trousdale. Damage Survey Team is currently assessing damage.

**Outlooks:** The Hazardous Weather Outlook issued at 450 am Wednesday, May 2nd, mentioned the possibility of tornadoes late Friday the 4th and continued to mention this in later outlooks. SPC had a risk of severe thunderstorms in the Day 4 to Day 8 Severe Weather Outlook issued on May 1st for Friday the 4th with continuing outlooks for western Kanas with the latest one with a Moderate Risk issued in the early morning on the 4th mentioning large tornadoes possible.

**Watches:** A Tornado Watch number 227 was issued at 616 pm.

**Warnings:** The first tornado warning was issued at 813 pm for Clark county which was 23 minutes before the first report of a tornado by law enforcement 5 miles east of Sitka in Clark county. This tornadic thunderstorm then tracked northeast across Clark county into Kiowa county where the storm intensified. Frequent tornado warnings were issued as this tornadic thunderstorm moved towards Greensburg. A tornado warning was issued for all of Kiowa county at 919 pm with a lead time of about 30 minutes before the tornado hit Greensburg. At 941 pm a Tornado Emergency for the town of Greensburg was issued aprox. 10 to 15 minutes prior to the tornado hitting Greensburg. Multiple other severe thunderstorms were issued. After Greensburg a family of tornados continued to cycle with tornado warnings issued into Edwards and Stafford counties.

**Service:** Quick Response Team (QRT) has been coordinated for possible deployment today and Sunday.

Dan McCarthy is available today and can reach the area in 2 1/2 hours.

Greg Stumpf is currently traveling to the area for field research today. Has all equipment necessary for a QRT assessment and is available for Sunday.

**\*\*\* Previous Information \*\*\***

Follow-up statements were issued for the tornado and severe thunderstorm warnings. Phone calls were made to local Sheriff's offices as the tornadic storms approached towns. Local storm reports were issued in close to real time during the entire event with a summary storm report at the end of the events.

**Systems:** Terrestrial communications outages are continuing and this is making contact to field survey team difficult. No successful contact since deployment at 8:00 am CDT.

Communications to/from WFO is intact.

**\*\*\* Previous Information \*\*\***

No system problems indicated during the event.

**User Response:** National Media continues to cover this event with live interviews and briefings by Greensburg City Administrator and search and rescue teams.

**\*\*\* Previous Information \*\*\***

Considerable local and national media inquiries were made. Emergency response teams from neighboring counties were requested to help in Kiowa county. The National Guard was called out to Greensburg.

*Any Information listed pertaining to this event and/or lead times associated with watches and warnings are based on the best information available at the time this preliminary report was prepared. Subsequently, these may be changed as time permits a more thorough investigation of the circumstances surrounding this event.*