

= Evansville Tornado of November 2005 =

The Evansville Tornado of November 2005 was an F3 tornado that formed early in the morning of November 6 , 2005 , outside of Evansville , Indiana , USA . It was the first of several tornado events that November . The tornado resulted in 25 confirmed fatalities across the region , making it the deadliest and most destructive November tornado in Indiana 's history . The Evansville tornado was part of a small outbreak that produced 8 tornadoes .

= Meteorological analysis =

The system formed on a cold front that tracked across the Midwest and stretched from the northern Great Lakes to Tennessee . The front was enhanced by a strong jet stream and warm , humid air ahead of it , allowing thunderstorms to develop . A severe thunderstorm watch was issued for the region just west of Evansville as the main threat appeared to be straight @-@ line winds . The system had formed into a squall line but at about 1 : 30 am CST (0730 UTC) , the squall line broke up in the Ohio Valley area , as the low level jet intensified , allowing embedded tornadoes to form rapidly out of newly formed supercells . They were fairly isolated (only seven were confirmed across the entire region over a 24 @-@ hour period) but three significant tornadoes formed from two simultaneous supercells in southern Indiana and western Kentucky ? one of them was the deadly Evansville tornado .

= Confirmed tornadoes =

= November 5 event =

= November 6 event =

= Evansville area tornado =

On Sunday , November 6 , 2005 at around 1 : 50 am CST (0750 UTC) , an F3 tornado touched down 2 miles (3 km) north @-@ northwest of Smith Mills in Henderson County , Kentucky . The tornado moved northeast , snapping numerous trees , destroying a farmhouse , and throwing a pickup truck into a field . The tornado then crossed the Ohio River and moved across a rural peninsula of Vanderburgh County , Indiana . Few structures were impacted in this rural area , though a two @-@ story house built in 1875 sustained major roof damage , and tree branches were embedded into the walls of the house . One farm equipment shed was demolished , and another sustained major damage . A 10 @,@ 000 @-@ pound truck was flipped over , and heavy farm equipment was moved several feet . Aerial surveys revealed distinct spiral @-@ shaped scour marks in farm fields in this area . The tornado crossed the river again back into Kentucky , causing extensive tree damage on both sides of the river . Almost immediately after crossing the river , the tornado slammed into the Ellis Park horse racing facility . There was extensive damage to grandstands and housing facilities for jockeys . A few race horses were killed there .

The tornado crossed the Ohio River a third time back into Indiana and across the southern fringes of Evansville . Here , the tornado ripped directly through the Eastbrook Mobile Home Park , obliterating numerous mobile homes and killing 20 people . Of about 350 mobile homes in the park , 100 were destroyed and another 125 were damaged . The coroner reported that most of the victims were probably killed instantly , many by spine and skull fractures . Several bodies were carried almost two hundred yards . The tornado then crossed into Warrick County , Indiana at the Angel Mounds State Historic Site . Several permanent homes were destroyed in this area , along with many others on the north side of Newburgh . Past Newburgh , the tornado reached its peak intensity

(high @-@ end F3) as it tore through an industrial park near Paradise . Further northeast , the tornado passed just south of Boonville and caused a fatality in a mobile home . The tornado then tore directly through the small community of DeGonia Springs , tossing vehicles and destroying homes . Some of the homes in the community were leveled , and three people were killed in a mobile home in this area . The tornado began to rapidly weaken as it passed just south of Tennyson , and then dissipated as it crossed into Spencer County , Indiana . Overall , the tornado damaged or destroyed 500 buildings , killed 25 people , and injured 230 others .

Tornado warnings were in effect at the time and issued on average about 30 minutes before the tornado hit , but few people were alerted as many were asleep as the tornado hit in the overnight hours . The local NOAA Weather Radio transmitter was experiencing technical difficulties at the time , causing some weather radios to not sound an alarm . Damages were estimated at around \$ 85 million .

= = Aftermath = =

The community 's response to the tornado garnered national praise . Brad Gair , a coordinating officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) noted , " I don 't think I 've ever seen a community of people come out so quickly to help each other . All communities come together after a disaster , but this one is exceptional . " A local telethon helped raise the funds . " Just having a telethon that quickly was amazing , " said Gair , " Then to raise that kind of money ... That 's unusual . "

On August 12 , 2006 a granite monument memorial was built at Eastbrook Mobile Home Park , along with a new playground dedicated to the children lost in the tornado . It was part of a campaign launched by two parents that lost children in the tornado . In addition , Rep. Phil Hoy introduced a bill called " CJ 's law " which mandates that manufacturers of mobile homes install an operating weather radio with a separate power outlet in order to alert residents . It was named after victim C.J. Martin , who was two years old . Vanderburgh County also passed legislation toughening safety standards for their 3 @, @ 100 mobile homes , requiring them to be more securely anchored with additional straps and braces , to try to prevent another tornado disaster .

Ellis Park was rebuilt and reopened on June 1 , 2006 , for training . The first races at the rebuilt facility were held on July 19 , 2006 .

Local television station WEHT began a campaign after the tornado to provide weather radios to tornado victims for free , and to all for a discounted price . Even WEHT 's competitors have now posted how to program a weather radio on their websites . This program has since spread to many different areas of the country .

" Habitat for Humanity " Evansville Chapter launched construction of " Operation Home Again , " the New Haven Subdivision , which are new homes dedicated to the survivors of the tornado at Green River Road and Fickas Road . The subdivision has 55 homes and playground / park . There are four streets in the subdivision ? Inspiration Street , Healing Street , Promise Street , and Belief Street .

= = Fatalities = =