LAYOUT

Storm Events Database

May 2008

FIELD\_NAME FIELD\_TYPE FIELD\_LEN FIELD\_DEC COMMENT

STATE\_\_ N 5 0 State FIPS number

STFIPS C 2 0 NICAR-converted field for the

state FIPS code

BGN\_DATE D 8 0 Date the storm event began

BGN\_TIME C 12 0 Time the storm event began

N\_BGN\_TME C 4 0 NICAR-standardized time field

In 24-hour format.

TIME\_ZONE C 3 0 Time zone where the storm

event occurred

COUNTY N 5 0 FIPS code for the county or

forecast zone where storm event started

COFIPS C 3 0 NICAR-converted field for the

county FIPS code

COUNTYNAME C 200 0 Areas hit by the storm event,

listed either by counties or by National Weather Service forecast zones. “>” denotes a range of zones hit. “-” denotes a break in the zones that were hit.”

STATE C 2 0 State postal code

EVTYPE C 30 0 Type of storm event. Take

note that similar storm events can be listed using different wording e.g. “coastal flood” and “coastal flooding.” Take note of this if you want to run a query grouping by event type.

BGN\_RANGE \* N 5 2 Point where the storm event began

(in miles from BGN\_LOCATI)

BGN\_AZI C 3 0 Direction from BGN\_LOCATI

where storm event began

BGN\_LOCATI C 21 0 A fixed point, such as a city or

town, given to help describe where a storm event began.

END\_DATE D 8 0 Date the storm event ended

END\_TIME C 12 0 Time the storm event ended

N\_END\_TME C 4 0 NICAR-standardized time field

In 24-hour format.

END\_RANGE N 5 2 Point where the storm event ended

(in miles from END\_LOCATI)

END\_AZI C 3 0 Direction from END\_LOCATI

where storm event ended

END\_LOCATI C 21 0 A fixed point, such as an airport,

given to help describe where a storm event ended

LENGTH N 6 2 Path of tornado, in miles, tenths

and hundredths.

WIDTH N 5 0 Path of tornado, in yards

F C 1 0 Fujita tornado intensity scale

(0=40-72 mph; 1=73-112 mph; 2=113-157 mph; 3=158-206 mph; 4=207-260 mph; 5=261-318 mph).

MAG N 5 0 Hail in inches (implied hundredths

e.g. 175 = 1.75-inch hail); wind gusts in knots

FATALITIES N 5 0 Number directly killed

INJURIES N 5 0 Number directly injured

PROPDMG N 6 2 Property damage in whole

numbers and hundredths

PROPDMGEXP C 1 0 A multiplier where Hundred

(H), Thousand (K), Million (M), Billion (B)

PROPCASH N 11 2 Combines the PROPDMG

and PROPDMGEXP fields to create a numeric value (this field was created by NICAR)

CROPDMG N 6 2 Crop damage in whole

numbers and hundredths

CROPDMGEXP C 1 0 A multiplier where Hundred

(H), Thousand (K), Million (M), Billion (B)

CROPCASH N 11 2 Combines the CROPDMG

and CROPDMGEXP fields to create a numeric value (this field was created by NICAR )

TOTCASH N 12 2 Combines the PROPCASH

and CROPCASH fields to create a numeric value (this field was created by NICAR )

WFO C 3 0 National Weather Service

forecast office that reported the data. Join with ID field in wfo.dbf lookup table

STATEOFFIC C 75 0 The region where the event

took place.

ZONENAMES M 10 0 Memo field listing zone and

county names where event occurred. If COUNTYNAME field lists county FIPS codes, ZONENAMES field lists the corresponding county names. If COUNTYNAME field lists county names, ZONENAMES field is blank.

LATITUDE N 4 0 Latitude where storm event

began

DEC\_LAT N 9 5 NICAR-converted latitude

where storm event began. Adds the appropriate decimal places and converts minutes (the last two numbers in the previous field) into five decimal places.

LONGITUDE N 6 0 Longitude where storm event

began

DEC\_LONG N 9 5 NICAR-converted longitude

where storm event began. Adds the appropriate decimal places and converts minutes (the last two numbers in the previous field) into five decimal places.

LATITUDE\_E N 5 0 Latitude where storm event

ended

DEC\_LATEND N 9 5 NICAR-converted latitude

where storm event ended. Adds the appropriate decimal places and converts minutes (the last two numbers in the previous field) into five decimal places.

LONGITUDE\_ N 6 0 Longitude where storm event

ended

DEC\_LONEND N 9 5 NICAR-converted longtitude

where storm event ended. Adds the appropriate decimal places and converts minutes (the last two numbers in the previous field) into five decimal places.

REMARKS M 10 0 A text description of the

storm event

REFNUM N 12 0 Disregard. An internal

number for NCDC purposes only. (note: NICAR filled these numbers in for 2005)

\* BGN\_RANGE, BGN\_AZI, and BGN\_LOCATI work together to fix the starting point of an event. For instance, if the three fields read “2.00,” “S” and “Lake Charles,” then that means the event began 2 miles south of Lake Charles. These figures will not be available for large-scale events, such as floods and winter storms, where the event covers a large area and doesn't have a specific beginning point.