

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration









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- Drones in NWS Damage Surveys
- Impact-Based Tornado/T'Storm Warnings
- Days 4-7 Winter Storm Threat Graphic
- Blizzard of 2016
- **Range of Possibilities Snow Forecast**
- New Tools for Hurricane Season
- February 24<sup>th</sup> Tornado outbreak
- Conference Calls / Briefings



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- What are your thoughts?
- What has worked well?
- What can we do better?



### Using UAS Technology to Obtain Aerial Storm Damage Imagery

Mike Sporer NWS Blacksburg

#### **NWS Storm Damage Surveys**



Observed damage indicators are analyzed to determine a likely cause and intensity



DOD	Damage description	e description EXP LB			
1	Threshold of visible damage	65	53	80	
2	Loss of roof covering material (<20%), gutters and/or awning; loss of vinyl or metal siding	63	97		
3	Broken glass in doors and windows	96	114		
4	Uplift of roof deck and loss of significant roof covering (>20%); collapse of chimney; garage doors collapse inward; failure of porch or carport	97	81	116	
5	Entire house shifts off foundation	121	103	141	
6	Large sections of roof structure removed; most walls remain standing	122	104	142	
7	Exterior walls collapsed	132	113	153	
8	Most walls collapsed, except small interior rooms	152	127	178	
9	All walls	170	142	198	
10	Destruction of engineered and/or well constructed residence; slab swept clean	200	165	220	

Sometimes the best way to view damage is from the air

# What appears to be minor tree damage from the ground...



#### Can be part of a more significant damage path when viewed from above



#### Track of EF1 tornado, Botetourt county Virginia April 27, 2011

#### Traditionally aerial support has come from local emergency services or agencies such as the Civil Air Patrol



Today, UAS (Unmanned Aerial System, aka "Drones") technology makes it possible to rapidly collect and share aerial imagery on a small scale!

#### Why Drones?

- Efficient
- Flexible
- Focus on small areas
- High-res imagery

- Digital datasets: 3D mapping / NDVI
- Access to damage inaccessible by ground
- Not restricted by roadways
- Quicker than walking

Drone pilots who operate professionally must have:

- Section 333 exemption from FAA
- Ensures training & protocol for ops near first responders

On Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016, an EF-3 tornado produced extensive damage in Virginia as it moved across Appomattox county, with the Evergreen area being particularly hard hit.

NWS Blacksburg conducted damage surveys along the path of the tornado and for the first time used aerial imagery from a drone.



#### The tornado track was not always well defined from the ground



#### However, the tornado track was clearly visible from the air



The drone was able to see deep into areas of tangled debris not safely accessible from the ground



Convergent patterns of damage indicative of a tornado were easier to see from the air



Drone imagery helped to better define the track length, adding 4 miles to the initial ground based estimate



#### **The Road Ahead**

- Local NWS use of drones will continue
- Regional/National NWS use of drones is currently under review
- Use of drones likely to become more widespread
- Full coordination is *critical* to avoid conflicts
- All use of drones dependent on future FAA regulations



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### **Impact Based Warnings**

# Successfully Tested Central U.S. (including western VA)

#### National Implementation - April 13<sup>th</sup>

719 WFU553 KDMX 122125 TORDMX IAC017-023-122200-/o.NEW.KOW.TO.W.0014.130612T2125Z-130612T2200Z/

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED TORNADO WARNING NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DES MOINES IA 425 PM CDT WED JUN 12 2013

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN DES MOINES HAS ISSUED A

\* TORNADO WARNING FOR... SOUTHWESTERN BREMER COUNTY IN NORTHEAST IOWA... CENTRAL BUTLER COUNTY IN NORTH CENTRAL IOWA...

\* UNTIL 500 PM CDT

\* AT 422 PM CDT...A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM CAPABLE OF PRODUCING A TORNADO WAS LOCATED NEAR ALLISON...AND MOVING EAST AT 20 MPH.

HAZARD...TORNADO AND QUARTER SIZE HAIL. SOURCE...RADAR INDICATED ROTATION.

IMPACT...FLYING DEBRIS WILL BE DANGEROUS TO THOSE CAUGHT WITHOUT SHELTER. MOBILE HOMES WILL BE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED. DAMAGE TO ROOFS...WINDOWS AND VEHICLES

WILL OCCUR. TREE DAMAGE IS LIKELY. CLOATIONS IMPACTED INCLUDE... CLARKSVILLE...SHELL ROCK...WAVERLY AND PLAINFIELD.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

TAKE COVER NOW, MOVE TO AN INTERIOR ROOM ON THE LOWEST FLOOR OF A STURDY BUILDING. AVOID WINDOWS. IF IN A MOBILE HOME...A VEHICLE OR OUTDOORS...MOVE TO THE CLOSEST SUBSTANTIAL SHELTER AND PROTECT MOURSELF FROM FLYING DEBRIS.

88

LAT...LON 4284 9240 4264 9250 4265 9255 4275 9288 4289 9282 TIME...MOT...LOC 2125Z 280DEG 17KT 4279 9278

TORNADO...RADAR INDICATED HAIL...1.00IN

55



THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN BLACKSBURG HAS ISSUED A	Companion	Tornado Tag	
<ul> <li>SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING FOR</li> <li>PATRICK COUNTY IN SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA</li> <li>SOUTHERN FLOYD COUNTY IN SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA</li> <li>EASTERN CARROLL COUNTY IN SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA</li> </ul>	TORNADORADAR INDICATED	Evidence on radar and near storm environment is supportive, but no confirmation.	
* UNTIL 130 FM EST * AT 1236 FM ESTA SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WAS LOCATED OVER FINE	TORNADOOBSERVED	Tornado is confirmed by spotters, law enforcement. etc.	
RIDGEMOVING NORTHEAST AT 35 MPH.	Tornado Damage Threat Tag		
HAZARD60 MPH WIND GUSTS AND QUARTER SINE HAIL.	No Tag	Use most of the time, when tornado	
IMPACTHAIL DAMAGE TO VEHICLES IS EXPECTED. EXPERT WIND DAMAGE TO ROOFSSIDINGAND TREES.		damage possible within the warning polygon. Tornado duration generally expected to be short-lived.	
+ LOCATIONS IMPACTED INCLUDE HILLSVILLE FLOYD WOOLWINE	TORNADO DAMAGE THREATCONSIDERABLE	Use rarely, when there is <u>radar or other</u> <u>observational evidence</u> that a tornado,	
CANA AND ARARAT. PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS		damage of <u>EF2 or greater</u> is imminent or ongoing. Tornado duration generally	
PREPARE IMMEDIATELY FOR LARGE HAIL AND DAMAGING WINDS. FOR YOUR SAFETYMOVE TO AN INTERIOR ROOM ON THE LOWEST FLOOR OF A STURDY BUILDING. STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS.	TORNADO DAMAGE	expected to be long lived Use exceedingly rarely. Only when there	
WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SOPLEASE SEND YOUR REPORTS OF HAIL OF ANY SIZEAS WELL AS ANY REPORTS OF WIND DAMAGEINCLUDING DOWNED TREES OR LARGE LIMBSTO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BY CALLING TOLL FREE AT 18 6 62 1 54 3 2 4. REPORTS AND PICTURES CAN ALSO BE SHARED ON THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BLACKSBURG FACEBOOK PAGE AND ON TWITTER.	THREATCATASTROPHIC	is <u>DIRECT observational evidence that a</u> <u>violent tornado (EF4-5) is striking or</u> <u>about to strike a population footprint.</u> Tornado duration generally expected to	
55		be long lived. Faise alarm rate should be ZERO.	
A TORNADO WATCH REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 700 FM EST FOR NORTH CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA.	Tornado Tag In Severe Thunderstorm Warnings		
LATLON 3656 8084 3693 8065 3694 8063 3695 8058 3689 8021 3687 8023 3685 8008 3655 8038 TIMEMOTLOC 1736Z 221DEG 31KT 3652 8060 TORNADOPOSSIBLE	TORNADOPOSSIBLE	A severe thunderstorm has some potential for producing a brief tornado although forecaster confidence is not high enough to issue a Tornado Warning	
WIND60MPH		nigh enough to issue a fornaud warning.	

#### Impact Based Warning Examples Tornado – Radar Indicated or Observed

719 WFU553 KDMX 122125 TORDMX IAC017-023-122200-/0.NEW.KDMX.TO.W.0014.130612T2125Z-130612T2200Z/

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED TORNADO WARNING NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DES MOINES IA 425 PM CDT WED JUN 12 2013

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN DES MOINES HAS ISSUED A

\* TORNADO WARNING FOR... SOUTHWESTERN BREMER COUNTY IN NORTHEAST IOWA... CENTRAL BUTLER COUNTY IN NORTH CENTRAL IOWA...

\* UNTIL 500 PM CDT

\* AT 422 PM CDT...A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM CAPABLE OF PRODUCING A TORNADO WAS LOCATED NEAR ALLISON...AND MOVING EAST AT 20 MPH.

HAZARD...TORNADO AND QUARTER SIZE HAIL.

SOURCE... RADAR INDICATED ROTATION.

IMPACT...FLYING DEBRIS WILL BE DANGEROUS TO THOSE CAUGHT WITHOUT SHELTER. MOBILE HOMES WILL BE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED. DAMAGE TO ROOFS...WINDOWS AND VEHICLES WILL OCCUR. TREE DAMAGE IS LIKELY.

\* LOCATIONS IMPACTED INCLUDE... CLARKSVILLE...SHELL ROCK...WAVERLY AND PLAINFIELD.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

TAKE COVER NOW. MOVE TO AN INTERIOR ROOM ON THE LOWEST FLOOR OF A STURDY BUILDING. AVOID WINDOWS. IF IN A MOBILE HOME...A VEHICLE OR OUTDOORS...MOVE TO THE CLOSEST SUBSTANTIAL SHELTER AND PROTECT MOURSELF FROM FLYING DEBRIS.

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LAT...LON 4284 9240 4264 9250 4265 9255 4275 9288 4289 9282 TIME...MOT...LOC 2125Z 280DEG 17KT 4279 9278

TORNADO...RADAR INDICATED



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#### Impact Based Warning Examples Tornado – Tag: Considerable

602 WFU553 KDLH 292357 TORDLH MNC001-021-300030-/o.NEW.KDLH.To.W.0011.130829T2357Z-130830T0030Z/

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED TORNADO WARNING NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DULUTH MN 657 PM CDT THU AUG 29 2013

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN DULUTH MN HAS ISSUED A

\* TORNADO WARNING FOR... NORTHWESTERN AITKIN COUNTY IN EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA... EXTREME EAST CENTRAL CASS COUNTY IN NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA...

" UNTIL 730 PM CDT

\* AT 656 PM CDT...A CONFIRMED LARGE AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TORNADO WAS LOCATED 4 MILES WEST OF HILL CITY...NEAR HIGHWAY 200...AND MOVING SOUTHEAST AT 25 MPH.

THIS IS A PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION.

HAZARD ... DAMAGING TORNADO.

SOURCE...CONFIRMED TORNADO FROM TRAINED SPOTTERS.

IMPACT...YOU ARE IN A LIFE THREATENING SITUATION. FLYING DEBRIS MAY BE DEADLY TO THOSE CAUGHT WITHOUT SHELTER. MOBILE HOMES WILL BE DESTROYED. CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO HOMES...BUSINESSES AND VEHICLES IS LIKELY AND COMPLETE DESTRUCTION IS POSSIBLE.

LOCATIONS IMPACTED INCLUDE... HILL CITY...SWATARA...HAYPOINT AND BAIN. HIGHWAY 200 WEST OF HILL CITY. HIGHWAY 169 SOUTH OF HILL CITY. QUADNA MOUNTAIN RESORT AREA.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

TO REPEAT...A LARGE...EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND POTENTIALLY DEADLY TORNADO IS ON THE GROUND. TO PROTECT YOUR LIFE...TAKE COVER NOW. MOVE TO AN INTERIOR ROOM ON THE LOWEST FLOOR OF A STURDY BUILDING. AVOID WINDOWS. IF IN A MOBILE HOME...A VEHICLE OR OUTDOORS...MOVE TO THE CLOSEST SUBSTANTIAL SHELTER AND PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FLYING DEERIS.

THIS STORM HAS A HISTORY OF PRODUCING TORNADOES. TAKE COVER IN A BASEMENT OR STORM SHELTER NOW!

88

LAT...LON 4703 9377 4703 9359 4694 9335 4684 9342 4677 9361 4696 9386 TIME...MOT...LOC 23562 310DEG 22KT 4698 9370

TORNADO...OBSERVED TORNADO DAMAGE THREAT...CONSIDERABLE HAIL...1.75IN

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### Impact Based Warning Examples Tornado – Tag: Catastrophic

903 WFUS53 KFSD 050022 TORFSD IAC035-050100-/0.NEW.KFSD.TO.W.0020.131005T00222-131005T0100Z/

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED TORNADO WARNING NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SIOUX FALLS SD 722 PM CDT FRI OCT 4 2013

... TORNADO EMERGENCY FOR WASHTA ...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN SIOUX FALLS HAS ISSUED A

\* TORNADO WARNING FOR... CHEROKEE COUNTY IN NORTHWEST IOWA...

\* UNTIL 800 PM CDT

\* AT 720 PM CDT...A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM CAPABLE OF PRODUCING A LARGE AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TORNADO WAS LOCATED NEAR WASHTA...AND MOVING NORTHEAST AT 30 MPH.

THIS IS A TORNADO EMERGENCY FOR WASHTA. TAKE COVER NOW. THIS IS A PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION.

THIS IS A PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION.

HAZARD ... DAMAGING TORNADO.

SOURCE... EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFIRMED TORNADO.

IMPACT...YOU ARE IN A LIFE THREATENING SITUATION. FLYING DEBRIS MAY BE DEADLY TO THOSE CAUGHT WITHOUT SHELTER. MOBILE HOMES WILL BE DESTROYED. CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO HOMES...BUSINESSES AND VEHICLES IS LIKELY AND COMPLETE DESTRUCTION IS POSSIBLE.

THE TORNADO WILL BE NEAR... QUIMBY AROUND 730 PM CDT. CHEROKEE AROUND 745 PM CDT. AURELIA AROUND 750 PM CDT.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

HEAVY RAINFALL MAY HIDE THIS TORNADO. DO NOT WAIT TO SEE OR HEAR THE TORNADO. TAKE COVER NOW.

&& LAT...LON 4259 9585 4291 9565 4291 9550 4283 9538 4269 9539 4256 9569 4256 9577 TIME...MOT...LOC 00232 225DEG 27KT 4260 9567

TORNADO...OBSERVED TORNADO DAMAGE THREAT...CATASTROPHIC HAIL...1.50IN

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#### Impact Based Warning Examples Severe Thunderstorm Warning: Tornado Possible

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING FOR... SOUTHERN LINCOLN COUNTY IN EAST CENTRAL MISSOURI... WESTERN ST. CHARLES COUNTY IN EAST CENTRAL MISSOURI... NORTHEASTERN WARREN COUNTY IN EAST CENTRAL MISSOURI...

UNTIL 600 PM CDT

AT 516 PM CDT...A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WAS LOCATED NEAR WRIGHT CITY...AND MOVING EAST AT 35 MPH.

HAZARD...GOLF BALL SIZE HAIL.

SOURCE... TRAINED WEATHER SPOTTERS.

IMPACT...DAMAGE TO VEHICLES...ROOFS AND WINDOWS.

GOLF BALL SIZE HAIL WAS REPORTED NEAR WRIGHT CITY WITH THIS STORM.

LOCATIONS IMPACTED INCLUDE...

WENTZVILLE...LAKE ST. LOUIS...ST. PAUL...DARDENNE PRAIRIE... O'FALLON...COTTLEVILLE...WELDON SPRING...ST. PETERS...MOSCOW MILLS...NEW MELLE...FORISTELL...FLINT HILL...OLD MONROE AND KAMPVILLE.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

FOR YOUR PROTECTION MOVE TO AN INTERIOR ROOM ON THE LOWEST FLOOR OF A BUILDING.

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LAT...LON 3895 9067 3892 9066 3889 9063 3887 9058 3888 9054 3890 9052 3884 9053 3868 9061 3869 9066 3865 9071 3875 9117 3901 9112 TIME...MOT...LOC 22192 280DEG 32KT 3885 9100

TORNADO...POSSIBLE HAIL...1.75IN WIND...<50 MPH

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- What are your thoughts?
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### **Winter Storm Threat**

#### 4 - 7 Days in the Future

Experimental Product by NWS Sterling

RE



High	High threat of high impact winter storm. Potential impacts include significant travel delays, closures, and threats to life and property. Plan ahead to minimize impact on you and your family.	
Moderate	Moderate winter storm threat. Potential impacts include significant travel delays and closures. Plan ahead to minimize impact on you and your family.	
Enhanced	Enhanced winter storm threat. Primary threat is disruption to travel.	
Slight	Slight winter storm threat. May cause travel disruptions, particularly if threat increases.	
None	No significant winter storm threat is currently expected. However, light wintry precipitation may still be possible.	

### **Service Need – Extended Information**

- Increasing requests for information on winter storms beyond watch/warning/advisory & accumulation forecast periods.
- Social Media hints/rumors amplify this need
  - Posting or Hyping 1 run of 1 model



- Text-based Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO)
  - Current tool to reflect threat
  - Largely tied to deterministic forecast
  - Not widely seen
  - Hard to share

### **Sample Hazardous Weather Outlook**

HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BALTIMORE MD/WASHINGTON DC 320 AM EST SAT MAR 2 2013

.DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...SUNDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

...A STRONG LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM <u>MAY</u> IMPACT THE AREA FOR A PERIOD BETWEEN TUESDAY AND THURSDAY... BRINGING <u>A CHANCE</u> FOR RAIN OR SNOW....GUSTY WINDS... AND COASTAL FLOODING. <u>UNCERTAINTY IN THE FORECAST</u> <u>REMAINS HIGH</u> DUE TO THE TRACK OF THE LOW...

### **Day 4-7 Winter Storm Threat**

- Why use 1 model ?
  - Use <u>90-member</u> ensemble of U.S. (20), European (50) & Canadian (20)
  - Chances of seeing few/several/double-digit accumulations
  - Throw in known signals for east coast "bombs"
- From all of this we can gauge level of:
  - Confidence -AND-
  - Potential Impact





### **Experimental Product Overview**



Click on maps to see daily Confidence vs. Potential impact. (Click here to hide.)

ſ	T	High	High threat of high impact winter storm. Potential impacts include significant travel delays, closures, and threats to life and property. Plan ahead to minimize impact on you and your family.
ł	H	Moderate	Moderate winter storm threat. Potential impacts include significant travel delays and closures. Plan ahead to minimize impact on you and your family.
		Enhanced	Enhanced winter storm threat. Primary threat is disruption to travel.
	A	Slight	Slight winter storm threat. May cause travel disruptions, particularly if threat increases.
	Г	None	No significant winter storm threat is currently expected. However, light wintry precipitation may still be possible.

### **Experimental Product Overview**



### Experimental Winter Threat Outlook 4:04 а.м. Tue Jan 19, 2016

Click on maps to see daily Confidence vs. Potential Impact graphic. (Click here to hide.)

Last Updated: 01/19/2016 4:04 AM Eastern





### **Blizzard of 2106**



1168 mi

### **Blizzard of 2106**

Storm Total Snowfall January 23rd - 24th 2016



### Range of Possibilities Snow Forecasts





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- What are your thoughts?
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#### Storm Surge:

- Tidal waters rising up and taking low lying areas
- Biggest killer for areas below 15' above sea level











#### Storm Surge:

#### **Previously**:

Threat was talked about within Hurricane Warning

#### New for 2015:

- Alerting public for the most likely area of life threatening storm surge
- Storm Surge Watch Potential
- Storm Surge Warning Expectation











#### Building a Weather-Ready Nation

O NMO:

NOAA

ENT O







#### Storm Surge:

#### **Previously**:

• Threat described in text

#### New for 2015:

- <u>Showing</u> people where flooding will reach
- Potential Storm Surge Flooding How bad COULD it be?



ental Potential Bolm Surge Flooding Map









#### Storm Surge:

Potential Storm Surge Flooding

THIS IS NOT EXPECTED FLOODING

THIS

#### IS REASONABLE WORST CASE

NHC Experimental Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map Hurricane ARTHUR (2014) Advisory 10 From 05 AM EDT Thursday July 03 to 10 AM EDT Sunday July 06

Greater than 3 feet above ground

Greater than 6 feet above ground Greater than 9 feet above ground



Experimental Potential Storm Surge Inundation GIS datasets will not be disseminated during the 2014 Atlantic Hurricane Season.







#### Storm Surge:

Potential Storm Surge Flooding

#### THIS IS REASONABLE WORST CASE

- Begin with issuance of watches/warnings
- Best used by EMs for: evacuation decisions who is at risk?

NHC Experimental Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map Hurricane ARTHUR (2014) Advisory 10 From 05 AM EDT Thursday July 03 to 10 AM EDT Sunday July 06









#### Storm Surge:

Potential Storm Surge Flooding

#### THIS IS REASONABLE WORST CASE

#### **Different than:**

surge watch/warnings -ANDsurge forecast still described in our text products. NHC Experimental Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map Hurricane ARTHUR (2014) Advisory 10 From 05 AM EDT Thursday July 03 to 10 AM EDT Sunday July 06

Greater than 9 feet above ground







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### Tornado Outbreak Feb 24<sup>th</sup>





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- What are your thoughts?
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Town Hall Meeting



### Conference Calls / Briefings

- What are your thoughts?
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