



Large Venue and Outdoor Event Weather Safety Workshop

March 26, 2013



Agenda

- **Noon – 12:15 p.m.** **Introduction and Recent Events**
- **12:15 pm – 12:55 pm** **Risks, Safety and Forecasts**
- **12:55 pm – 1:05 pm** **Break**
- **1:05 pm – 2:05 pm** **Preparing Venues and Large Events for Severe Weather**
- **2:05 pm – 2:15 pm** **Break**
- **2:15 pm – 3:35 pm** **Case Study – 2011 Woodward Dream Cruise.**
 - 2:15 pm National Weather Service
 - 2:35 pm Oakland County Homeland Security
 - 2:55 pm Royal Oak PD
 - 3:15 pm Woodward Dream Cruise Event Organizer
- **3:35 pm – 4:00 pm** **Questions and Panel Discussion**



What is a venue?

LARGE EVENT VENUES: Stadiums, speedways, festivals, carnivals, fairs, arenas, universities, even freeways ...
Wherever large crowds gather.





Threats

THREATS: Tornadoes, severe thunderstorm winds, giant hail, heavy/flooding rains, cloud-to-ground lightning, extreme heat or cold





Close calls, actual events, and what if scenarios



9 May 2000 Detroit, Michigan Comerica Park

Capacity (2000): 40,000

- *Detroit Tiger game was interrupted by golfball size hail (1.75 inch diameter).*
- *Unknown number of fans injured.*
- *Game was hailed/rained out.*



In and around Detroit: Wind gusts measured at 65 mph (probably greater) peeled roofs off buildings, and toppled trees and power lines. (Over \$7 million dollars in damage in Wayne County)





Ottawa 2011 Stage

- July 17
- Ottawa Bluesfest
- Called “freak situation” by organizer
- Severe Thunderstorm winds – few injuries
- Event cancelled “moments” before storm hit





2011 Indiana State Fair

- August 13
- Severe Thunderstorm
- Warning – 6 minutes of lead time
- Contact between NWS and Indiana State Police
- Experienced around 60 mph winds
- 7 Fatalities and 58 injuries





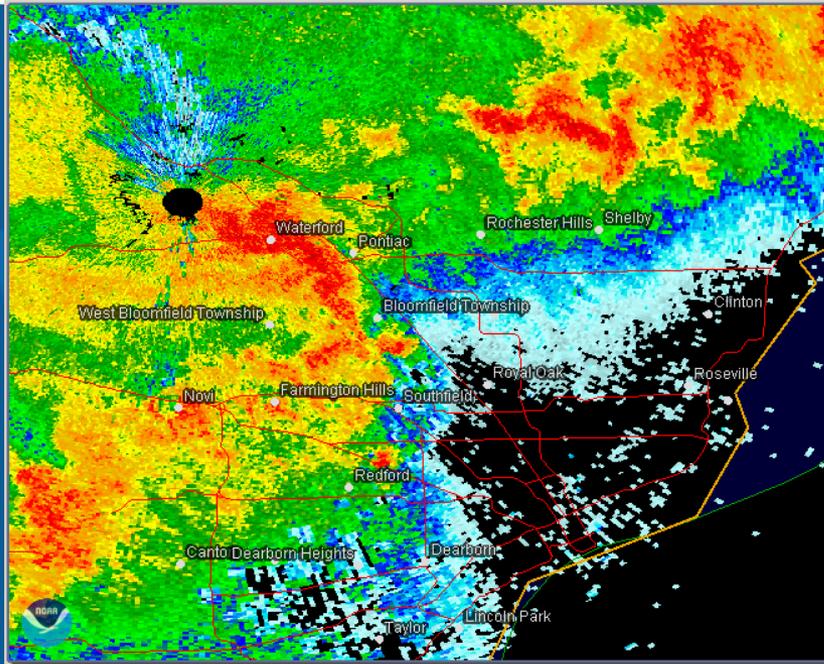
2011 Belgian Fair Collapse

- August 18
- Pukkelpop Music Festival
- Severe Thunderstorm Winds
- 5 fatalities and 140 injuries





Close calls, actual events, and what if scenarios



20 August 2011 Southeast, Michigan Woodward Dream Cruise

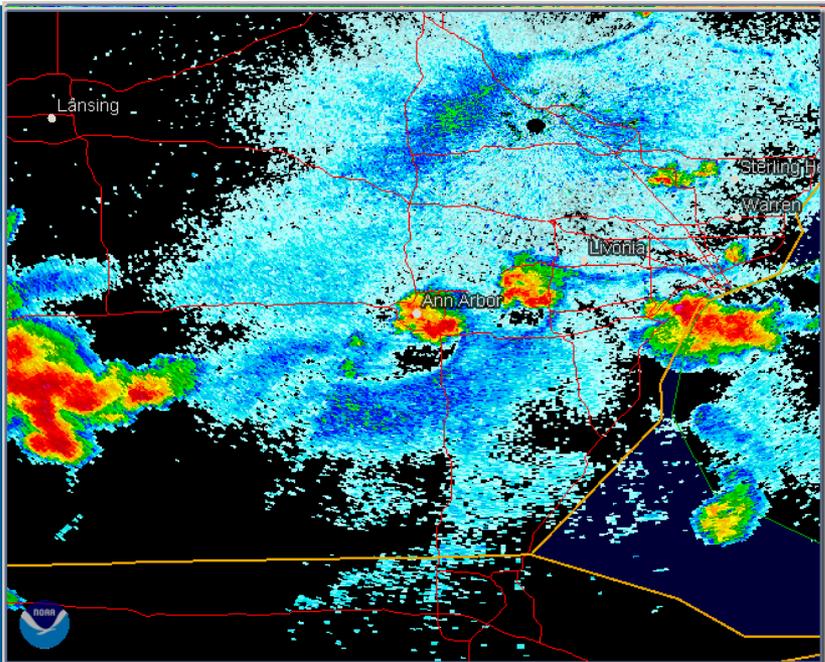
Capacity: 1 Million+

- Wind Gusts estimated 60 to 75 mph.
- Also had Selfridge Air Show and MIS Races/Festivities





Close calls, actual events, and what if scenarios



3 September 2011 Ann Arbor, Michigan University of Michigan Football Game

Capacity: 114,000+

- Severe Thunderstorms Develop over Ann Arbor*
- Also had Arts, Beats and Eats*





*Who is responsible for mitigating
this danger?*

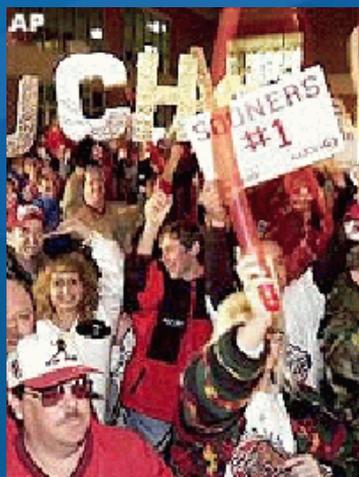
Not just venue operators, but...



The Entire Integrated Warning System!



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Each individual



This is a danger which is
inevitable

without proactive measures to
prevent catastrophic casualties.



HEED THIS WARNING

A direct strike on a crowded large venue is ***only a matter of time***





What can we do?

- **Mitigation is KEY!**
- StormReady





What We Can Do?

- International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM), the Academy for Venue Safety and Security (AVSS) and the National Weather Center
- Two Day Workshop in Norman OK, March 5 and 6
- <http://www.iavm.org/schools/AVSS/severeweatherprep.asp>



Benefits

- Keep fans, athletes, visitors and employees as safe as possible
- Possibly fare better in post event litigation
- Insurance rates?
- Reputation