

2010 Severe Weather Fact Sheet

National Weather Service Lincoln, IL

Hazardous Weather Impacts

- The **most storm-related fatalities** in the United States, over the past 30 years, **have been attributed to floods** (average of 93 each year); followed by lightning (58), and tornadoes (57).
- The heavy rain and devastating flooding of 2008 and 2009 directly resulted in 9 fatalities in Illinois. Seven of the fatalities occurred in vehicles trying to cross a flooded roadway. Damages from the floods in Illinois exceeded \$200 Million.
- Tornadoes in Illinois have killed 202 people, and injured nearly 4,100 since 1950.
- Average annual damage from tornadoes, hurricanes and floods in the U.S. is about \$14 billion.

Central / Southeast Illinois Severe Weather Statistics

- In 2009, **81%** of all severe weather events (*damaging winds, tornadoes and large hail*) in central and southeast Illinois had advance warning by the NWS in Lincoln, with an **average lead time of 19 minutes**.
- The **peak of our severe weather season** extends from **March 17th through September 1st**.
- Of the top 15 counties with the most tornadoes in the state, 10 are in central or eastern Illinois. These are:

Logan (ranked #2), **McLean** (#3), **Sangamon** (#4), **Tazewell** (#5), **Woodford** (#8), **Macon** (#11), **Champaign** (#12), **Piatt** (#13), **Coles** (#14) and **Douglas** (#15). [Data based on tornadoes per 100 square miles from 1950-2009]

- Nearly 2,400 volunteer weather spotters were trained in 35 central and eastern Illinois counties last year. More than 800 were new trainees.
- During the past 10 years, the calendar date with most occurrences of severe weather in central and eastern Illinois has been **August 18th**. It occurred 6 times on that date between 2000 and 2009. Several calendar dates had severe weather occur 5 times, including May 30th and 31st, June 27th, July 9th and 21st, and August 3rd.

Economic and Other Impacts of Weather Forecasts & Warnings

- The cost of NWS services for the average central or southeast Illinois household is only about \$7.50 per year. (*Based on NWS and Census Bureau statistics*)
- NWS Implementation of storm based warnings for smaller areas, and portions of counties, resulted in an **80% reduction in false alarms across central and eastern Illinois in 2009**. It is projected that this improvement will save U.S. businesses and the public nearly \$100 million in sheltering costs each year (e.g. lost business, lost productivity, etc...).
- Economists have estimated that improved *El Nino/La Nina* forecasts have resulted in annual savings of nearly \$300 million for U.S. agriculture by altering planting decisions.

The National Weather Service mission:

The National Weather Service provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. The NWS is the sole United States OFFICIAL voice for issuing warnings during life-threatening weather situations.

Visit our Internet homepage at: www.weather.gov/Lincoln for the latest weather and river forecasts, warnings, current conditions, radar & satellite imagery, and climate information.