

Communication and the Super Derecho of 8 May 2009: A Preliminary Analysis

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During the late morning and early afternoon hours, the “Super Derecho” of 8 May 2009 moved through the NWS Paducah county warning area. The “Super Derecho” developed in northwest Kansas on the evening of 7 May 2009 and proceeded to produce high-end damage from southeast Kansas, through most of southern Missouri and southern Illinois. NWS office in Paducah was on the late mature and dissipation phase of the “Super Derecho.”

Communication between the NWS and the public can be difficult during these types of high end events. How the NWS utilizes warnings and statements to get the proper reaction will be examined. Communication issues between offices, within the office, and most importantly, how to communicate the hazards to the public will be discussed along with proposals for improving Situational Awareness will be presented.