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News

# Deadly Storms Rake South; Move Into East C

Published: Jan 31, 2013, 7:45 AM EST | weather.com

Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

37/58



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Dollar General store sustained severe damage when a confirmed tornado ripped through the area Wednesday morning. (Shelley Mays/The Tennessean)



A strong storm that brought tornadoes and flooding to the South, has moved into the East Coast and Northeast Thursday morning. Strong winds and heavy rain will continue to cause problems through at least midday.



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"You don't need much precipitation from this storm front, because the wind is going to be enough of a problem," reports The Weather Channel meteorologist Maria Larosa. **"Watch for debris on the roads during your morning commute** that was left by the strong overnight winds."

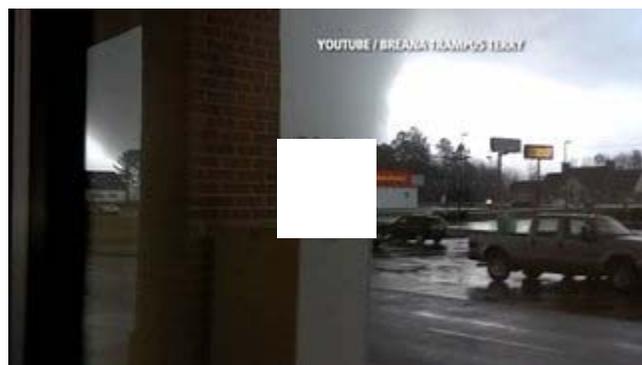
**(MORE: [See Current Wind Gusts](#))**

At least two deaths are blamed on the storm in Tennessee and Georgia. **Eight states** have seen confirmed tornadoes: Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee and Georgia.

As the storm moves into the Northeast Thursday morning, the heavy winds have knocked out power to more than 200,000 customers in New York, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

"Wind gusts up to 81 mph were clocked in southern New England early Thursday, including gusts over 60 mph at New York's LaGuardia Airport and Boston's Logan Airport," says weather.com Senior Meteorologist Jon Erdman.

Flooding and wind damage are a significant concern this morning in the Northeast corridor. We've received several reports of high water rescues in Bethesda, Md.. There are also reports of **flooding in Boone, N.C.** and wind damage in New Jersey.



Georgia Tornado Caught on Video

## A VIOLENT, DEADLY PATH

"It's cold here. There's no power. And people have a long way to go to recovery," says Julie Martin, reporting from Adairsville, Ga. Thursday morning.

The small town of Adairsville in North Georgia was among the hardest hit areas. Of the two deaths reported in this storm system, one was in Adairsville, Ga.

Dozens of homes and businesses were destroyed.

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**Georgia  
Tornado Caught  
on Video**



**Family Loses  
Everything**



**Dramatic Video  
of Deadly  
Tornado**

Nearly 10 miles of Interstate 75 was shut down yesterday after debris made it impassible. Martin reports vehicles were tossed on the roadway by the strong winds.



More than a thousand customers have no power in Adairsville, residents are being asked to boil water

before they use it, and a dusk-to-dawn curfew is in effect.

Frightening video captures the tornado roaring through the town just before noon on Wednesday.

**(SLIDESHOW: Homes Flattened, Cars Crushed)**

"My brother and mom were in there asleep," Will Carter, a young man who lost his home, told Martin, as he shivered in the cold rain. He says they both escaped alive and unharmed moments before the home collapsed.

"The sky was swirling," said Theresa Chitwood, who owns the Adairsville Travel Plaza. She said she went outside to move her car because she thought it was going to hail. Instead, the storm decimated a building behind the plaza.

Chrystal Bagley and her coworkers heard warnings about severe weather on the radio, but they didn't hear Adairsville included. Around 11:45 a.m., the doors started rattling, and chairs and knick-knacks began blowing around the room as the door flapped open.

"We heard this big old whooshing noise like a train, and then we ran to the restroom, but we had to dodge objects," she said. "It was real scary."

By the time they reached the restroom, the 20 seconds of a roaring noise and shaking walls had stopped, and everyone was OK.

The Weather Channel's Tornado Expert Dr. Greg Forbes estimates this tornado **could be as strong as an EF-4**. He will be surveying the damage in Adairsville Thursday with the National Weather Service.

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## Quiet Streak Ends

"What an outbreak it's been," Dr. Forbes exclaimed Wednesday evening. The numbers are indeed impressive. Since the storms sparked Tuesday, there have been **more than 800 reports** of severe



**Family Loses Everything**



**Family Loses  
Everything**



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**Massive Storm  
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weather. Although high winds did the bulk of the damage, Dr. Forbes says there were 13 confirmed tornadoes since Tuesday, with 11 more preliminary twisters that investigators are still looking into.

The nation has had its longest break between tornado fatalities since detailed tornado records began being kept in 1950, according to the Storm Prediction Center and National Climatic Data Center. The last one was June 24, when a person was killed in a home in Highlands County, Fla. That was 220 days ago as of Tuesday.

The last day with multiple fatalities was June 4, when three people were killed in a mobile home in Scott County, Mo.

## Travel Delays

Airport delays are expected to diminish as the system moves east. Flooding and residual ponding on roadways may continue into the morning commute, creating travel headaches along interstates and surface streets.

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iWitness weather user Sawyer James Perry snapped this photo in the Spring of 2012. It's a great illustration of the height of tornadoes. Note the debris field in the bottom third of the photo. The funnel cloud itself rises thousands of feet in the air. (iWitness weather user: Sawyer James Perry)



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**Michael Bean** · Top Commenter · Torrance High School

I think more people are sucked up in Tornadoes and End up in Oz than we realize. Mostly Liberals.

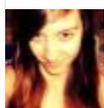
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**Kim Day**

You people are sick and need serious mental help.

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**Julia C. Taylor** · Top Commenter

I really hope he finds his dog! That's super sad!

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**Dan Conyers** · Top Commenter

Y'know, none of this would happen if we all just quit driving our cars... well, that's what Al Gore told me.

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**Daniel Dalmas** · San Francisco, California

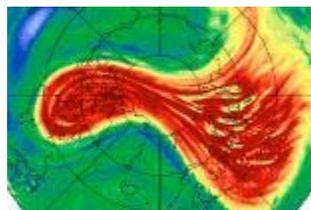
Some men and women are probate and hate the truth! The hour has come! Only a remnent will be left. Psalm 91

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