

MAY 17, 1999 DERECHO

A derecho, which is a severe thunderstorm complex, swept across the entire region. The concentration of heaviest damage was from southeast Missouri across southern Illinois, where gusts to near 90 MPH were estimated. Almost every county in our area reported winds of around 60 MPH or greater. Below are the reports from that day by state. *Note, wind gusts are reports in knots (i.e. Thunderstorm Wind (G50) = 58 mph)*

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS:

Alexander County

Willard to
4 E Miller City

17 1418CST 0 1 75K Thunderstorm Wind (G70)

A wood-frame house sustained major damage to its roof and an attached garage. The garage was totally destroyed. A large section of the house's roof was blown off. A woman, who was standing in front of the window when the storm hit, received cuts to an artery in her neck. She was hospitalized overnight. Heavy rain coming through the damaged roof caused extensive water damage. About half a dozen trees were uprooted or snapped. Near the community of Willard, a garage was severely damaged by high winds. The walls of the garage were bowed outward, and the door was caved in.

Johnson County

Cypress to
4 NE Vienna

17 1420CST
1435CST 0 0 75K Thunderstorm Wind (G70)

Numerous trees and power lines were down near Cypress. One tree fell on a house. Several miles northwest of Vienna, winds unroofed a double wide mobile home and downed trees, one of which landed on the corner of the mobile home. Four miles northeast of Vienna, numerous large trees were uprooted, and a house received shingle damage. One of the downed trees landed on a house, causing minor damage. A television antenna was toppled, and the latticework was torn off the patio of the house. Several other houses received minor roof damage 6 miles east of Vienna. Downed trees closed short sections of State Routes 37, 146, 147, and about 20 county roads.

Pulaski County

Mounds to
Mound City

17 1420CST 0 0 40K Thunderstorm Wind (G56)

A semi trailer rig were blown over on Interstate 57 near Mounds. In Mounds, 25 to 30 trees were blown down, shingles were torn off a few roofs, and windows were blown out. Several roofs were blown off in Mound City.

Union County

Countywide

17 1425CST 0 0 250K Thunderstorm Wind

High winds from a line of thunderstorms caused widespread damage across Union County. Hundreds of downed trees and power lines were reported. In Cobden, community officials estimated 100,000 dollars damage occurred. Children escaped injury at an elementary school in McClure when storms blew off the gymnasium's roof. Damaging winds caused extensive damage in Arma, where numerous trees and limbs were blown down. A one-story frame house in Arma was flattened by a falling tree. In Jonesboro, there were small trees down and 10-inch diameter limbs. Two houses in Jonesboro sustained some of the worst storm-related damage due to trees smashing into them. Power was out for more than 12 hours in some areas, prompting the cancellation of some schools the following day. In East Cape Girardeau, grain bins were heavily damaged.

Jackson County

Carbondale

17 1428CST 0 0 3K Thunderstorm Wind (G52)

Wind gusts estimated near 60 MPH downed tree limbs.

Massac County

Metropolis

17 1442CST 0 0 5K Thunderstorm Wind (G52)

Scattered trees and power lines were blown down.

Williamson County

Marion

17 1443CST 0 0 Hail (0.75)

Dime size hail was reported at the mall.

Williamson County

Marion

17 1445CST 0 0 35K Thunderstorm Wind (G52)

Numerous tree limbs and a few large trees were blown down. One large tree fell on a house. Streets and roads were blocked by fallen trees, mainly in the southern and eastern portions of the city. Several thousand utility customers were without power for 24 hours or more.

Jefferson County

Scheller to
Waltonville

17 1455CST 0 0 10K Thunderstorm Wind (G52)

Scattered trees and limbs were blown down, mainly south of Mount Vernon. A utility company reported most of the tree damage was near Waltonville and Scheller. In Mount Vernon, a large tree fell on an outhouse, and a television antenna at the same residence was blown down.

Saline County Countywide	17	1500C ST	0	0	20K	Thunderstorm Wind
Franklin County 2 N Whittington	17	1500C ST	0	0	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Emergency management officials reported a tree down across Highway 37. Gusts were estimated near 60 MPH.						
Wayne County Wayne City	17	1500C ST	0	0	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Wind gusts estimated around 60 MPH blew down power lines.						
Pope County Golconda	17	1510C ST 1525C ST	0	0	50K	Thunderstorm Wind
Two south-facing windows were blown out of the courthouse in Golconda, and a 30 by 40 foot section of its roof was blown off. Numerous trees and power lines were down in Golconda. The upstairs part of the building sustained water damage.						
Wayne County Sims	17	1512C ST	0	0		Hail (1.75)
Golf ball size hail was reported.						
Hardin County Countywide	17	1515C ST 1525C ST	0	0	10K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Trees and power lines were down at scattered locations around the county.						
Gallatin County Ridgway	17	1530C ST	0	0	5K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Gusts to 60 MPH downed tree limbs and power lines.						
White County Norris City	17	1545C ST	0	0	20K	Thunderstorm Wind
Two grain bins, with capacities of 15,000 and 4,000 bushels, were demolished. A one-story home just northeast of the grain bins was unroofed. Trees were down.						
Edwards County Albion	17	1555C ST 1605C ST	0	0	100K	Thunderstorm Wind (G56)
Several buildings were damaged, and numerous trees and power lines were down. At least a couple of trees landed on homes and vehicles. One tree blocked Route 15 temporarily. An office building was damaged when its brick chimney blew over and fell through the roof. At least a couple of buildings received broken windows. Another building sustained minor roof damage. The damage appeared to be greatest over northern parts of the city.						
Wabash County Mt Carmel	17	1615C ST	0	0	10K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Gusts were reported to 60 MPH by emergency management personnel. Scattered trees and limbs were blown down in the vicinity of Route 1 south of Mount Carmel. One large tree fell on a house.						
Wabash County Mt Carmel	17	1615C ST	0	0		Hail (0.75)

SOUTHWEST INDIANA:

Posey County

2 E Mt Vernon

17 1601CST 0 0 10K Thunderstorm Wind

A semi trailer was blown off Highway 62. Trees and power lines were down. The damage was likely caused by a "gustnado," a tornado-like eddy along the leading edge of the thunderstorm wind gust.

Warrick County

**Lynnville to
Boonville**

**17 1605CST
1620CST 0 0 30K Thunderstorm Wind (G52)**

A farmhouse near Lynnville was damaged as a thunderstorm gust front passed by. Witnesses reported seeing a tornado, which was later classified as a gustnado. Gustnadoes are tornado-like vorticies that form along the leading edge of thunderstorm gust fronts. A gust to 60 MPH was measured at Boonville.

Vanderburgh County

**Evansville to
Mc Cutchanville**

**17 1610CST
1620CST 0 0 10K Thunderstorm Wind (G59)**

Wind gusts estimated between 65 and 70 MPH blew down power lines along U.S. 41. Trees were down in the vicinity of WIKY radio. Gusts were near 60 MPH in McCutchanville.

Vanderburgh County

Evansville

17 1619CST 0 0 Hail (0.75)

Gibson County

**Ft Branch to
Oakland City**

17 1628CST 0 0 20K Thunderstorm Wind (G52)

In Fort Branch, a metal outdoor building was thrown into a mobile home, and a trailer was damaged by a falling tree limb. In Oakland City, several trees were knocked down, and an old bank building lost some roofing. Tree limbs were down in Princeton.

Pike County

Countywide

**17 1645CST
1705CST 0 0 50K Thunderstorm Wind**

Trees and power lines were blown down at many locations in the county. A tree fell on a house in Winslow. A road was blocked at Petersburg. Two mobile homes were destroyed at Glezen. Gusts to 60 MPH were reported at Campbelltown and Ayrshire.

Spencer County

Countywide

17 1649CST 0 0 15K Thunderstorm Wind (G55)

A utility company reported trees and power lines down at locations scattered around the county. Steel siding was blown off a building at Rockport.

WESTERN KENTUCKY:

Carlisle County Bardwell	17	1438C ST	0	0		Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
						Emergency management personnel reported gusts up to 60 MPH.
Ballard County Kevil	17	1440C ST	0	0	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
						Power lines were down.
Hickman County Columbus	17	1440C ST	0	0	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
						Trees were down on State Route 1826.
Mccracken County Woodville to Reidland	17	1455C ST	0	0	10K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
						A number of trees were blown down at several locations in the western part of the county. The control tower at Barkley Regional Airport in West Paducah measured a gust to 60 MPH. Only a few trees were uprooted in the Reidland area of the county.
Marshall County Calvert City	17	1530C ST	0	0	5K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
						A wind gust to 60 MPH was measured near Calvert City near the Purchase Parkway and I-24. Some tree limbs were down in the area.
Lyon County Eddyville	17	1545C ST	0	0	4K	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
						Trees and power lines were down along Oak Grove Road.
Livingston County Lola	17	1545C ST	0	0	2K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
						Trees were down on Lola Road.
Crittenden County Shadey Grove	17	1554C ST	0	0	5K	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
						Two trees were down along Highway 120.
Union County Sturgis	17	1555C ST	0	0		Hail (0.75)
Caldwell County Princeton	17	1600C ST	0	0	5K	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
						Power lines and a few trees were down.
Henderson County Spottsville	17	1610C ST	0	0	5K	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
						A utility company reported two trees down.
Hopkins County Madisonville	17	1625C ST	0	0	4K	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
						A few trees and power lines were down.
Mclean County Countywide	17	1639C ST	0	0	5K	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
						A utility company reported a few trees and power lines down at locations scattered around the county.
Daviess County Countywide	17	1644C ST 1705C ST	0	0	10K	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
						Thunderstorm winds downed some trees and power lines. A tree fell on a house 3 miles southeast of Owensboro.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI:

Carter County

**Van Buren to
Ellsinore**

17 1245C ST 0 0 30K **Thunderstorm Wind**
1255C ST

A house trailer sustained heavy damage in Ellsinore. Numerous trees were down in Van Buren.

Wayne County

**Piedmont to
Wappapello**

17 1253C ST 0 0 40K **Thunderstorm Wind (G60)**

In Piedmont, a pontoon boat in a parking lot was moved six feet. In Taske, a porch was blown off a house, and a shed was damaged. Trees were down across roadways at scattered locations around the county.

Ripley County

3 NE Doniphan

17 1310C ST 0 0 **Hail (0.75)**

Ripley County

3 NE Doniphan

17 1310C ST 0 0 10K **Thunderstorm Wind**

Numerous trees were down and a barn was destroyed.

Stoddard County

**Bloomfield to
Advance**

17 1340C ST 0 0 100K **Thunderstorm Wind**
1355C ST

In Advance, the roof was blown off a block building, chain link fences were down, and numerous trees were down. On the school grounds in Advance, a dugout at a baseball field collapsed with students inside it. An auto dealership on the south edge of Advance lost its roof and back wall. No injuries were reported. In Bloomfield, large trees were down.

Perry County

1 S Perryville

17 1345C ST 0 0 **Hail (1.00)**

Cape Girardeau County

**Randles to
Cape Girardeau**

17 1350C ST 0 0 150K **Thunderstorm Wind (G61)**
1405C ST

Damaging winds, estimated near 70 MPH, affected southern parts of Cape Girardeau County. Near Randles, a mobile home was unroofed and numerous trees were down. In Cape Girardeau, the dome roof of an indoor municipal pool was shredded, and the roof of an armory was torn off. Numerous trees and power lines were down. At the Cape Girardeau Regional Airport, automated equipment measured a gust to 62 MPH. A utility company reported 22,500 customers in the Cape Girardeau area lost power, some for up to 24 hours. A large portion of the utility company's roof was blown off, blocking the entrance to the building. Roofing from a newly remodeled apartment building was blown across a street. About two dozen trees were blown down on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University. A few miles south of Jackson, a fire official witnessed a "gustnado" about 20 feet wide. A gustnado is a tornado-like vortex that forms along the leading edge of a thunderstorm gust front.

Bollinger County

Countywide

17 1400C ST 0 0 40K **Thunderstorm Wind (G69)**

Numerous trees and power lines were down. Trees were blown down across a highway. A shop building blew down with a man inside, but he was not injured. The county emergency management director estimated wind speeds up to 80 MPH.

Scott County

**Sikeston to
Scott City**

17 1405C ST 0 0 75K **Thunderstorm Wind (G78)**

Thunderstorm winds were estimated up to 90 MPH at isolated locations in the county. These winds damaged or destroyed a few smaller buildings. A tractor trailer rig was blown over on Interstate 55 near the Scott City exit. Part of the roof of a school in Scott City was peeled off. The highest gust in Sikeston was 62 MPH. Some of the hardest hit communities included Chaffee, Oran, and Morley. A tree fell on a house in Chaffee, damaging an awning and the roof. In Oran, a tree fell on a house, and another fell on a vehicle.

New Madrid County

**Parna to
Matthews**

17 1415C ST 0 0 10K **Thunderstorm Wind (G52)**

Scattered trees and power lines were down, mainly in northern parts of New Madrid County.

Scott County

Lusk

17 1423C ST 0 0 **Hail (1.00)**

Mississippi County

**Charleston to
Birds Pt**

17 1425C ST 0 0 20K **Thunderstorm Wind**

At Birds Point, an empty trailer was damaged. Scattered trees and limbs were blown down at East Prairie and Charleston.