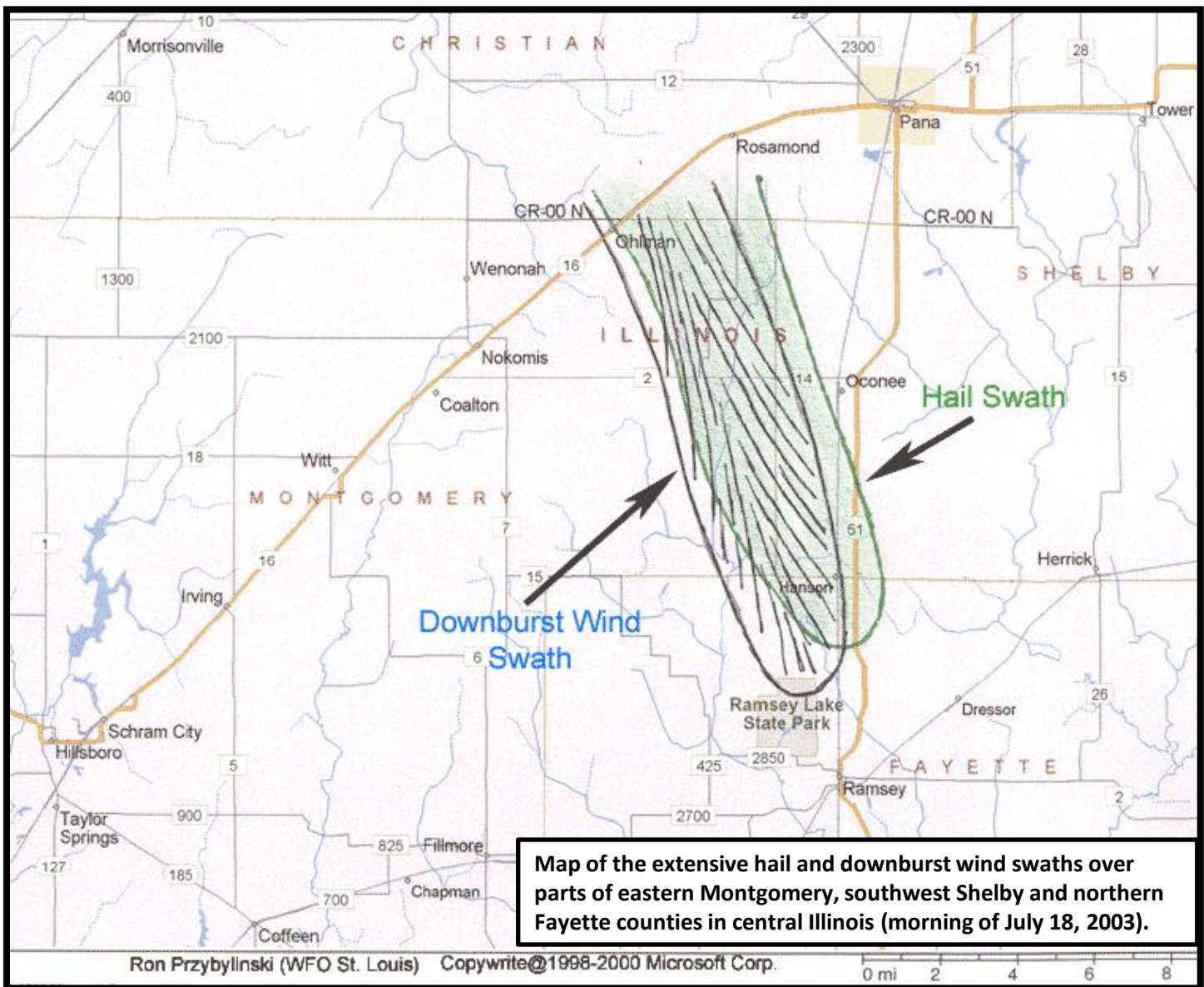


Downburst and Hail Event

July 18th, 2003

Overview

During the early morning (5:00 – 6:30 AM CDT) of July 18th, 2003, the first of two supercells traveled nearly due south and produced extensive hail damage to homes, out-buildings, corn and soybean crops across parts of far eastern Montgomery, southwest Shelby, and northern Fayette counties in central Illinois. Over 19,000 acres of corn and soybean crops were damaged or destroyed within the hail swath. Witnesses observed that most of the hail was 1.00 to 1.75 inches in diameter. Hail completely covered the ground mainly over the western two-thirds of the hail swath. Hail was 2 to 3 inches deep in many places with a few isolated areas 4 inches deep. A few large trees were downed and several large tree limbs were snapped within the downburst wind and hail swaths. Along the far western side of the downburst wind swath some of the corn within the fields were nearly flattened (lying south).



Damage Photos



Extensive hail damage to a corn field 3 miles west of Oconee, Illinois in extreme eastern Montgomery county.

Corn flatten 4 miles west of Oconee, Illinois (250 yards west of the hail swath). Corn flatten by a localized microburst. Viewing south.



Typical damage to one of many trees (large branches down) 1.3 miles west of U.S. 51 and just south of the Fayette - Shelby County line.

Please note that while the severe weather data presented in this event synopsis has been quality controlled, it is still considered unofficial. Official reports & statistics for severe weather events can be found in the **Storm Data** publication (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/IPS/sd/sd.html>) or **Storm Events Database** (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>), available from the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) web page [formerly the National Climate Data Center (NCDC)].

More detailed tornado track information can be accessed using the National Weather Service Damage Assessment Toolkit for all tornadoes beginning in 2012. <https://apps.dat.noaa.gov/StormDamage/DamageViewer/>

Any questions regarding this event review should be address to w-lsx.webmaster@noaa.gov