



AccuWeather Track-Specific Warning Prevented Millions of Dollars in Damage Ahead of EF-4 Tornado

25 minutes of advance notice allowed Union Pacific to “save 8 trains from derailing” as tornado destroys railway track.

18 inches = Millions of Dollars. One wouldn't think that moving an object a mere 18 inches could result in a loss of many millions of dollars and, perhaps, cause injury. But that is the case with a railroad track. The two rails must be exactly 4 feet 8 1/2 inches apart or a train moving over them will derail, resulting in a multi-million dollar loss.

The evening of May 25, 2016, **AccuWeather Enterprise Solutions' International Severe Weather Center** warned Union Pacific Railroad that an EF-4 tornado was going to cross its track just west of Chapman, Kansas. The 25-minutes of advance notice allowed the railroad to stop the trains that were scheduled to pass through the area. According to Union Pacific, our warnings saved multiple trains that were scheduled to travel across the damaged tracks.

The usual procedure is to stop trains until the tornado has passed and then allow the first train to proceed at “restricted speed” – usually 10 mph. When the track was inspected, just west of Chapman, what they found was shocking. The tornado was so strong that it **moved the track 18 inches.**

Keep in mind that rails are not aerodynamic, weighing about 135 lbs/yard, and are connected to the wooden cross-ties by 9 inch metal spikes! We've never seen this happen before! Only a tremendous force of nature could cause a rail displacement of this magnitude to occur.

Only AccuWeather provides track-specific storm warnings designed to provide our railroad clients the exact information they need, in the form they need it. Whether it is calibrating the amount of inventory needed to match weather-driven demand, providing an electric utility company the information needed to hold repair crews or anything related to weather and business, contact AccuWeather Enterprise Solutions today.



Contact us today at: 814.235.8600 or sales@accuweather.com.
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