There are few phrases more dreaded than “tornado warning.”

At 4:27pm, June 12, 2009, the Caterpillar, Inc. plant in Southaven, Mississippi received a SkyGuard® warning from AccuWeather Enterprise Solutions. The warning was valid from 4:40 until 5:10pm.

The people of Caterpillar knew that the AccuWeather warning had given them 13 precious minutes to implement their safety plan. They immediately began moving more than 100 employees to safety upon receiving AccuWeather’s warning.

After everyone was in shelter, the power went out, power lines on the campus were blown down, parts of the roof came off, and the plant received extensive water damage.

But, no employees were injured.

The next day, recovery efforts began. An emergency generator was on-site. Specialists were brought in to repair the water damage and to restore commercial power. What could have been a catastrophe became a mere “business interruption,” thanks to an accurate and timely warning from AccuWeather and Caterpillar’s savvy response.

AccuWeather’s internationally-renowned storm warnings are responsible for saving countless lives and hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue and property losses.