



Advance SkyGuard® Warning Stops Train Before Tornado Strike

9:12 PM CDT

Our meteorologists proactively issued a SkyGuard tornado warning to Union Pacific (UP) for their track-specific points 325.9949 to 342.0086 near Greensburg starting at 9:30 p.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m. This allowed their dispatchers to stop a train that was headed straight for the tornado path.

9:19 PM CDT

The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a tornado warning for Kiowa County in South Central Kansas stating "At 9:17 p.m. CDT...National Weather Service Meteorologists were tracking a confirmed large and extremely dangerous tornado 14 miles south of Greensburg...Moving Northeast at 25 MPH."

9:38 PM CDT

The first Local Storm Report, issued 5 miles outside of Greensburg by a NWS employee, stated "WEDGE TORNADO WITH A SATELLITE TORNADO AND ROPE TORNADO. TORNADO BECOMING RAIN-WRAPPED."

9:55 PM and 10:33 PM CDT

Local Storm Reports were issued confirming the first fatalities and severe damage and destruction.

By using SkyGuard, UP received a location-and time-specific tornado warning that was 7 minutes in advance of the county-wide tornado warning issued by the NWS. Had UP relied on the NWS warnings, the devastating EF-5 tornado might have struck the train, causing a derailment and, potentially, an even more catastrophic event if it was transporting fuel or chemicals.

We commend the advance warning the NWS provided the public, thereby preventing a greater loss of lives. However, if UP had relied upon the NWS warning, they might have been too late to stop the train from traveling straight into the tornado. In addition, they would have halted all trains in the entire county, per the broad NWS warning, rather than location-specific track points.



Contact us today at: [814.235.8600](tel:814.235.8600) or salesmail@accuweather.com.
Visit us at: AccuWeather.com/EnterpriseSolutions.

