



# Major Tornado Strikes Wichita; AccuWeather Enterprise Solution's Clients Well Prepared

At 4pm CDT, Thursday, April 12, 2012, AccuWeather Enterprise Solution's (AES) clients in the central Plains received an unusual forecast for Saturday, "widespread tornadoes." This "storm potential notice" (SPN) is a special notice to communicate a threat of extreme weather (blizzard, ice storm, etc.) so our clients can prepare accordingly.

Throughout Friday and into Saturday morning, follow-up SPN's were sent to emphasize the extreme level of threat and numerous phone consultations with clients were conducted.

At 9:34pm, the time for immediate sheltering and shutdowns had arrived. A large tornado was approaching Wichita in the darkness. AccuWeather meteorologist Andrew Crouch forecasted the path on his exclusive SmartWarn® workstation and the warning was instantly transmitted to our large clientele in the region tailored with times of arrival and other information pertinent to their specific requirements. For example, we told Spirit Aerosystems the tornado would arrive after 10pm, which gave them 24 minutes to prepare.

## How did we know?

When other forecasting agencies 7.4 miles from the tornado at its closest approach took shelter and transferred warning

responsibility for Wichita to a distant office, AES meteorologists continued to work – even though shelter was a few feet away and our sister office in Pennsylvania was ready to take over - because our precise tracking showed the tornado would pass safely 5 miles to southeast.

Our certified storm warning meteorologists were using a higher precision Doppler radar which displays the winds inside a storm with outstanding detail. The purple circle is the "mesocyclone" from which tornadoes develop. Most Doppler radars show mesocyclones. The higher resolution radar, unlike others, displayed the tornado itself (arrow) with winds measured by the radar of 150 mph! As a result we were certain of its position and certain that major damage would result.



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