



# AccuWeather SkyGuard® Warnings Keep 4 Clients Safe During Deadly 2017 Tornado Outbreak

As darkness fell over the middle Mississippi River Valley the evening of February 28, 2017, a strong thunderstorm that formed over northwest Arkansas during the afternoon began to intensify and rotate as it approached the River. When it was over, that storm produced large hail and tornadoes over an incredible 550-mile long path that involved four states and four AccuWeather Enterprise Solutions (AES) clients.

This is the story of how AES protected its clients, their people and their property from the three tornadoes spawned by this unusual thunderstorm.

The first was the BNSF Railway. The tornado went right over their mainline track. **AccuWeather provided 20 minutes of advance warning** while the National Weather Service (NWS) only provided 60 seconds of warning, which would not have been enough time to take precautionary measures.

A second AES client in the path of the tornado received **14 minutes of additional lead time** before an NWS tornado warning was issued, and called to report they were thrilled with the service provided by our meteorologists, which allowed them to prepare before the tornado hit and showered them with debris.

As the tornado made its way across Illinois, the tornado struck a third client, Illinois Central Railway, the line that is famous for the "City of New Orleans" passenger train. AES provided **39 minutes of lead time**, plenty of time to take precautions, while the NWS provided just 6 minutes.

Finally, as the tornado crossed into Indiana, we provided **39 minutes of advance warning** to a Toyota manufacturing plant for a tornado which eventually passed within 1 mile of their facility – 18 minutes before the NWS issued their warning. We warn the Toyota manufacturing plant when a tornado comes within 5 miles.

**With the 2017 tornado season off to a fast start, now is the time to contact us today to learn how your business can be protected 24x7x365!**



Map depicting the tornado path, our clients locations, and the lead time AccuWeather (AES) and the National Weather Service (NWS) provided.



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