False Alarms

- NWS metric for tornado (severe) warning performance (FAR)
  - No tornado (severe) occurred in the warned area
  - Do people/public *perceive* false alarms the same way NWS does?

How do people form their perceptions?

Should there be a different means of defining a ‘good’ warning?
National Weather Service confirms tornado touchdown near Mayetta

July 4, 2010

Tornado touches down near Mayetta Sunday afternoon.
Tornado drops south of Mayetta

Steve Rupert was having a quiet Sunday evening baking a pie while his wife was out of town.

Becky Roush and her four kids were outside their home across the street from Rupert on 142nd road preparing to celebrate the Fourth of July.

In a flash of torrential rain, strong winds and deafening noise, both knew something was wrong.

The National Weather Service in Topeka said a brief tornado touched down at 4:46 p.m. about 3 miles south of Mayetta in the area of 142nd and US-75 highway.

Scott Blair, a meteorologist with the weather service, said an EF-0 tornado dropped about a mile west of US-75, traveled across the highway and then went about another mile east before dissipating at about 4:50 p.m. The wind speeds reached about 80 mph.

No injuries were reported with the storm.

Damage ranged from an overturned RV in between the north and southbound lanes of US-75 highway, a downed power pole and numerous damaged and fallen trees, battered roofs and a destroyed barn. The two occupants of the RV were uninjured, the Kansas Highway Patrol reported, though it couldn’t confirm.
FLOOD WARNING

Tornado touches down near Mayetta

Last Update: 9:49 pm

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The National Weather Service confirms the touchdown of a small tornado on the Fourth of July in northeast Kansas. No injuries were reported from the twister, which touched down at 4:46 p.m. Sunday about three miles south of Mayetta in southern Jackson County.

A camper and a barn on rural property were destroyed. The weather service rates the tornado an EF-0, the lowest rating on the Enhanced Fujita Scale, with estimated winds of 80 mph. A survey team says the twister was on the ground for about three minutes and traveled two miles. The storm that spawned the tornado also damaged trees and flipped a recreational vehicle on its side on U.S 75. Authorities say the two people in the RV were unharmed.

For more on the tornado near Mayetta, watch 27 News reporter Afton Neilsen’s report on the attached video.
Where Was the Tornado Warning?

photographer: Eric Ives & Emio Tomeoni

The rain has been a constant the past couple of days but with the rain... came the storm.

**Posted:** 6:18 PM Jul 5, 2010  
**Reporter:** Stephanie Ramos  
**Email Address:** stephanie.ramos@wibw.com

Tornado Touchdown in Mayetta

The rain has been a constant the past couple of days but with the rain... came the storm.

A tornado touchdown caused significant damage in Jackson County Sunday night... and surprised many... it may have been the **fourth of July** but this jolt was not planned.

Down trees... power outages...damaged homes...all in the path of an EF 0 tornado that traveled for two miles and stretched 75 yards wide at one point in Jackson County.

The National Weather Service says there was no warning because there were dozens of storms demonstrating the same characteristics but were not producing a tornado.

This one did.
Missed Events

• Tornado (other severe weather) occurs without a warning

• Do missed events change the confidence of the warning system?

• Do people/public change their protective actions?

  • Team members (IWT) relationship tested.
Perceived Missed Events

• Tornado (other severe weather) warning verified per NWS criteria.

  • ‘Didn’t happen here’… ‘Didn’t happen anywhere’

• Does this mentality exist? If so, is it widespread? If so, does it change public response to warnings?

  • Could IWT team members aid in mitigating perception?