

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS, OCTOBER 1941

[Compiled by Mary O. Souder]

[The table herewith contains such data as has been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list of tornadoes will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Rock Rapids, Iowa, vicinity of.	4	9 p. m.			\$1,200	Electrical	Barn and contents burned.
Blairsburg and Webster City, Iowa.	4	10-10:30 p. m.	1		2,000	Wind	Barn wrecked; windmills and other buildings damaged; crops flattened path 2 miles long.
Joice, Silver Lake, Fertile, Hanlontown, and Meltonville, Iowa.	4	10 p. m.		0	4,000	Probable tornado	Corn flattened; trees and small buildings damaged. Barn wrecked and other buildings damaged on a farm near Joice. The storm moved toward the northeast with damage occurring in the vicinity of Myrtle, Minn.
Elkhart, Ill., vicinity of ¹	4			0		Tornado	Barn and several buildings razed and corn flattened. In Nebo, Pike County, several families were driven from their homes because of flooding caused by the overflow of Spring Creek.
Mower, Fillmore, and Houston Counties, Minn.	5	Midnight-1:30 a. m.	12		10,000	Thundersquall	A number of trees uprooted; buildings and windmills damaged, corn and soybeans lodged. The general direction of the storm was from southwest to northeast. Property damaged over a path 100 miles long.
Houston County, Minn., and vicinity.	5	1:30 a. m.	22	0	3,000	Possible tornado, heavy rain, electrical.	Number of farm buildings damaged; trees uprooted, lay on the ground in different directions; small loss in crops. Both straight and rotary winds observed. Path of storm about 8 miles long and from southwest to northeast.
Des Moines, Iowa	6	2:35 p. m.			2,500	Wind	A sudden squall wrecked a garage, blew over oil storage tanks, uprooted trees, damaged roofs and blew down wires, with greatest damage in the eastern section of the town. Maximum wind velocity of 40 miles per hour recorded at 2:34 p. m. Path narrow and 4 miles long.
Kansas City, Mo.	6	5 p. m.	100	3		Tornado	Storm moved from southeastern Nebraska, southwestward across central Kansas. Houses unroofed or demolished, trees uprooted and moderate structural damage to industrial plants, and about 135 persons injured. A large part of the distance traversed was through the thinly populated Blue River Valley. Path of the storm was 9 miles long with no estimate of the total damage given.
Bedford, Conway, and Clearfield, Iowa, and vicinities.	6	9 p. m.	440	0	15,000	do	This storm began one-half mile east of Bedford and traveled northeastward to Clearfield. 13 houses and a store were damaged in Conway with considerable damage along the storm's path and some livestock killed. This disturbance apparently crossed the southeastern portion of Union County and damaged buildings on 8 or 10 farms. Path 15 miles long.
Patterson, Iowa	6	9:45 p. m.	110	0	12,000	do	Lumberyard and several houses in Patterson, and farm buildings in rural areas damaged over a path several miles long. Rotary winds observed.
Hopeville, Murray, Liberty and Osceola, Iowa, and vicinities.	6	10-10:30 p. m.	220	0	500	Tornadic winds	Loss in Murray about \$500. Damage in rural areas several thousand dollars; path 20 miles long.
Waverly, Klinger, Grove Hills, Readlyn, and Sumner, Iowa.	6	10:30-11 p. m.		0	20,000	Tornado	A funnel-cloud observed northwest of Waverly; in other sections damage seems to have been caused by straight-line winds in narrow paths.
Grundy Center, Iowa, vicinity of.	6	11 p. m.		0	500	do	Several buildings damaged on 2 farms.
West Union and Clermont, Iowa.	6	11:30 p. m.		0	3,500	do	Barns and smaller buildings damaged.
Boone County, Iowa, north-eastern portion.	6	P. m.				do	Buildings damaged on 4 or more farms, a house being demolished and the occupant injured. Path 2 miles long.
Mapleton, Iowa, 7 miles south.	6	do		0	2,500	do	Buildings damaged, livestock killed, and trees uprooted on several farms.
McGregor and Guttenburg, Iowa.	6-7	11:30 p. m.-12:30 a. m.	440	0	3,500	do	Trees, electric and telephone lines down. Buildings damaged on at least 3 farms in an area several miles long.
Gainesville, Fla.	20	1:30 p. m.		0	100	do	Damage small and confined to tree limbs one slightly damaging a garage. Path a few rods wide and a mile long.
Chickalah, Dardanelle to Pottsville, Ark., and vicinities.	26	4 p. m.	150-200	4	75,000	do	The storm was first observed at Chickalah and moved northeastward through a portion of Dardanelle to Pottsville. About 20 houses demolished and many others considerably damaged. In Dardanelle 4 persons were killed and 20 injured. The small loss of life is due to the fact that the district is not thickly populated and that the tornado occurred in the afternoon.
Hamburg, Ark.	26	11:15 p. m.	300-440	15	125,000	do	This storm traveled from southwest to northeast over a short path, all damage being confined to Hamburg, Ark. 74 persons were injured, 42 houses completely destroyed and 53 damaged. All electric power and light service disrupted and the municipal water plant out of use for 24 hours. Many automobiles and trees damaged or destroyed; path 880 yards long.
Holly, La., vicinity of	27	10-11 p. m.		2		Wind	The storm hit a community around a sawmill recently erected by the Southern Pine Lumber Company where 10 persons were injured. After striking in the Holly settlement, the freak wind jumped about 3 or 4 miles and dipped again to demolish a house on a plantation.
Iowa, west-central and southwestern counties.	31					Snow, sleet and glaze.	Many trees, telephone and power wires broken by the accumulated weight of heavy snow and sleet. Damage was heavy, but as the storm continued past midnight, a complete account will appear in November Climatological Data.

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Safford, Ariz.	28-29				\$500,000	Heavy rain and flood.	The heavy rains on the tributaries of the upper Gila River above Coolidge Dam, resulted in one of the worst floods in this area with much property damage.
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¹ Miles instead of yards.
² From press reports.