

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR MAY 1946

[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
<i>May 1946</i>							
El Paso, Tex., and vicinity	4				\$15,000	Hail and wind	Thousands of acres of crops lost; barn blown down.
Roger Mills County, Okla.	7	4 p. m.	1,700		5,000	Hail	Loss in crops.
Roswell, N. Mex.	8	do	12		5,000-10,000	do	400 acres of cotton to be replanted; alfalfa also damaged.
Harper County, Okla.	9	5 p. m.	13		25,000	do	Loss in crops; path 6 miles long.
Wallace County, Kans., western portion.	9	6:30 p. m., M. S. T.	12		250,000	Heavy hail	Loss in crops, principally wheat; path 30 miles long.
Stafford to Zenith, Kans., vicinities of.	9	8 p. m.	14		112,000	do	Loss in crops; some fields, total loss; path 6 miles long.
Erie, Colo.	9	12:10 p. m.	11		9,000	Hail	Considerable damage to alfalfa, grain, and property.
Arriba, Colo., 3 miles northwest.	9	2:45 p. m.			5,000	do	Loss in about 500 acres of wheat.
Fruitvale, Clifton, Orchard, and Mesa, Colo.	10	1-2 p. m.	110		1,000,000	do	50 percent of peach crop lost; much loss in other fruits and truck. 20 percent of tomatoes had to be reset.
Eufaula, Okla., vicinity of	10	7:45 p. m.	850-1,700	1	30,000	Tornado and hail	Loss in crops, \$5,000; property damage, \$25,000. 2 persons injured; 11 buildings destroyed; path 10 miles long.
Atoka, Okla., 12 miles east	10	8:30 p. m.	13		10,000	Hail	Crop loss, \$8,000; property damage, \$2,000; path 10 miles long.
Washington, D. C.	11	1:30-3 p. m.				High wind	Several boats capsized; all passengers rescued.
Laredo, Tex.	11	3 p. m.			29,100	Hail	Chief loss in cantaloupe crop.
Cherokee County, Tex., north-central portion.	11	P. m.	12		400,000	do	Loss in crops, \$390,000; property damage, \$10,000.
Grapeland, Tex.	12	6:45 p. m.	13		400,000	do	\$250,000 loss in fruit and truck; \$150,000 property damage.
Lindale and Kilgore, Tex.	12	7 p. m.	12		200,000	do	Crop loss, \$170,000; property damage, \$30,000.
Hawkins, Tex.	12	7:40 p. m.	14		30,000	do	Property damage, \$25,000; crop loss, \$5,000.
Nacogdoches, Tex.	12	11 p. m.			30,000	do	Light to moderate damage to fruit, truck, corn, and cotton.
Quitman, Tex.	13	5:20 p. m.	13		21,300	do	Loss in fruit, truck, and corn, \$15,000; property damage, \$6,300.
Washington, D. C.	13	P. m.				Thunderstorms	At 1:30 p. m., a 16-foot sailboat capsized off Hains Point. The occupants were rescued almost at once by a harbor patrol boat. A second boat turned over about an hour later and the couple rescued. At 2:15 p. m., a sailboat overturned, with no loss of life.
Bon Wier, Okla.	13	About midnight.			2,500	Hail	Loss in fruit and truck.
Alva, Okla., vicinity of	14	4 p. m.			30,000	do	Path from west to east; loss in small grains, orchards, and gardens.
Kearney County, Nebr., western and central portions.	14	4-6:30 p. m., C. S. T.	14		37,620	Heavy hail and high wind.	Loss in growing crops, \$29,000; damage to buildings and equipment, \$8,000; path 14 miles long.
Jackson County, Okla.	14	7 p. m.	11		7,500	Hail	Path 3½ miles long.
Cincinnati, Ohio, vicinity of	15	7 a. m.			6,000	Heavy hail	Loss mostly in crops; some windows broken.
Champion to Maryneal, Tex.	15	do	400	1	32,800	do	Crop loss, \$2,500; property damage, \$30,300.
Llano County, Tex.	15	do	120		20,000	Hail	Crop loss, \$10,000; property damage, \$10,000.
Arnett, Okla.	15	6 p. m.			30,500	do	Crop loss, \$30,000; property damage, \$500.
Kimball, Nebr., 7 miles south.	15	6 p. m., M. S. T.	12		45,000	Heavy hail	Loss in oats and barley, but principally in wheat; path 8 miles long.
Runnels County, Tex., northwest corner.	15	7 p. m.	120		500,000	Hail	Loss in growing crops; considerable injury to livestock; much property damaged.
San Marcos to Wimberly, Tex.	15	P. m.			2,000	do	Some damage to fruit trees; no estimate available.
Sandy Ridge, Ala.	16	2 a. m., C. S. T.	17	0	10,000	Tornado	Negro shacks and other miscellaneous farm buildings, pecan trees, and a motor truck destroyed; path 3 to 4 miles long.
Portsmouth, Ohio	16	3:30 p. m.			2,000	High wind and rain.	House badly damaged; trees destroyed.
Ullyses and Hickok, Kans.	16	3:30-5:45 p. m.	18		200,000	Heavy hail	Chief loss in wheat; path 15 miles long.
Fredericksburg, Tex.	16	6-6:30 p. m.			526,000	Hail, wind, and rain.	Winds during the hailstorm from the northeast about 50 miles an hour. Severe damage to interior of homes; in some instances, stones pierced the roof and the sheet rock ceilings, forcing occupants to seek shelter under furniture. After the storm, some homes had 4 to 5 inches of water on the floors. Loss in fruit and livestock, \$35,000; property damage, \$491,000.
Meade County, Kans.	16	6:30 p. m.	11½		9,500	Heavy hail	Loss chiefly in wheat; path 18 miles long.
Carnegie, Okla., vicinity of	16	8 p. m.	850	0	6,000	Tornado	Path from northeast to southwest; several buildings damaged.
Kerrville, Tex.	16	8:10 p. m.	440		50,000	Hail	Crop loss negligible; much property damage.
Crittenden County, Ky.	17	2:30-5:30 p. m.	20-30	0	350,000	Tornado	Storm more severe in the vicinity of Marion, Ky.; 2 persons injured near Crane, Ky.
Coleman, Tex.	18	4 p. m.	11		10,000	Hail	No estimate of crop loss.
Nance County, Nebr.	18	4-4:30 p. m., C. S. T.	11½-2		30,000	Heavy hail	Much loss in small grains, alfalfa, and gardens.
Clay, Montague, and Denton Counties, Tex.	18	5 p. m.	325	4	112,000	Tornado	Several persons seriously injured; crop loss, \$11,000.
Mapleton, Iowa, vicinity of	18					Wind	Strong wind overturned or wrecked small buildings and damaged trees. 4 farms affected.
Beloit, Iowa, vicinity of	18	6:30 p. m.		0		Tornado	This was a continuation of the Mapleton storm mentioned above. Trees uprooted, windmills, and small buildings damaged. Path narrow and 2 or 3 miles long.
Anthony to Freeport, Kans., vicinity of.	18	8-9 p. m.	110		20,000	Hail and wind	Loss in some wheat fields from 75 to 100 percent; path 15 miles long.
El Dorado, Ark., midnight 18-noon 19.	18-19					3 wind, electrical and rain storms.	Trees uprooted, plate glass windows smashed, and electric wires twisted, causing a series of fires. Garage demolished and several houses damaged. Arkansas Power & Light Co. crews at work repairing lines from midnight until next afternoon. Second storm came at daylight, accompanied by a 30-mile wind and attended by sharp electrical flashes. The third occurred at noon but was minor in comparison with its predecessors.
Auburn and Opelika, Ala., and vicinities.	19	3 p. m.		1	5,000	Thundersquall	Child killed when hit by bricks from falling chimney, 11 miles northwest of Opelika. Power and communication lines in Opelika damaged by fallen trees. Only minor damage in Auburn.
Fairbanks and Tomball, Tex.	19		115		9,250	Wind and hail	Loss in crops, \$5,000.
Robeson County, N. C., northern portion.	20	5:30-6 p. m.	600-900		6,200	do	An area of 4 square miles affected with loss in crops, \$5,200; property damage, \$1,000.
Laredo, Tex.	20	12:58 p. m.	17		500,000	Wind, hail, and rain.	7 persons severely injured. 75 percent of damage from wind; 20 percent from hail, and 5 percent from rain.
Florida, entire State	20				800,000	High winds and heavy rain.	In Pensacola Bay some ships were blown from their anchorage and crashed into the Pensacola Bay Bridge, with from \$300,000 to \$400,000 damage. 75 acres of shade tobacco and between 6,000 and 7,000 acres of oats and blue lupine almost completely lost; damage, \$400,000.
Kinston, N. C., and vicinity	20		100-200	4	68,000	Tornado	Storm moved from southwest to northeast and struck in several spots. It first struck the Southwood School section, then jumped the Neuse River to the western edge of Fairfield, thence northward to Snow Hill road. Before striking Kinston, the severe wind demolished several homes in Seven Springs to the west-southwest of Kinston. 3 homes completely demolished; several stores and garages destroyed or damaged; 26 homes damaged; 12 barns and 25 outbuildings destroyed or damaged; 22 persons injured.

¹ Miles instead of yards.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR MAY 1946—Continued

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Grifton, N. C.	May 1946 20	About mid-night		0	40,000	Tornado	Leaving Kinston, N. C., the tornado struck in the area of Grifton. 6 houses damaged or destroyed and 15 tobacco barns damaged.
Cherry Lake and Pinetta, Fla., and vicinities.	20				1,100	Hail	Loss in tobacco from hail, \$1,000; wind damage to corn, \$100.
Wayne County, N. C., northern portion.	21		880		40,000	Wind and hail	Tobacco, cotton, and corn completely destroyed in many fields; much damage in others.
Hill City, Kans.	22	6 p. m.	6	0	40,000	Tornado and hail	Loss equally divided between crops and property; path 20 miles long.
Washington County, Kans. and vicinity.	23	3 p. m.	440	0		Tornado	Originated about 11 miles southwest and ended about 4 miles west of Washington, Kans. Path 3 miles long. Total loss in the county included in estimate of second tornado.
Washington and Hanover, Kans.	23		do.	1	131,500	do.	Estimated loss includes \$1,500 to crops. The second tornado in this county shows 30 families affected; 16 houses, 6 windmills, and 60 other buildings destroyed or damaged. Many cattle and much poultry killed. Path 20 miles long.
Leavenworth, Kans.	23	7 p. m.			6,000	Wind and hail	Loss from wind, \$5,000; from hail, \$1,000.
York County, Nebr.	23	5-6 p. m., C. S. T.	12		50,500	Heavy hail	Loss in grain, principally wheat.
Lincoln, Nebr., east and northeast of.	23	4:30 C. S. T.			16,000	Tornadoic winds	Property damaged.
Haigler, Nebr.	23	11 a. m.—noon, M. S. T.	110		20,000	Heavy hail and rain	Much loss in corn, wheat, and rye.
Home City to Liberty, Nebr., and vicinities.	23	3:30-4 p. m.	440	0	36,000	Tornado	6 farmsteads badly damaged and 2 persons injured. Crop loss, \$6,000, included in the estimate; path 12 miles long.
Oberlin, Kans., southeast of.	23	2 p. m.	12		25,000	Heavy hail	Loss in wheat; path 6 miles long.
Rooks County, Kans.	23	Noon-1 p. m.	1 1/2		50,000	do.	Loss in wheat; path 6 miles long.
Cheyenne County, Kans.	23	1 p. m.	15		250,000	do.	Chief damage just north of St. Francis; loss in wheat; path 25 miles long.
Oklahoma City, Okla., and vicinity.	23	4 a. m.			50,000	Electrical	Several buildings damaged; path northeast to southwest.
Owasa, Okla.	24	3 p. m.	850		6,000	Hail	Property damage, \$5,000; crop loss, \$1,000.
Creek County, Okla.	24	3:15 p. m.	160	0	500	Tornadoic winds	Path southwest to northeast; no details.
Shawnee, Okla.	24	3:30 p. m.	100	0	14,000	Tornado and hail	\$5,000 property damage; \$9,000 loss in crops; path 6 miles long.
Tulsa and Rogers Counties, Okla.	24	4 p. m.	500	0	12,000	do.	Most damage from tornado; no details.
Granger, Tex.	24	5 p. m.	460	1	27,500	Tornado	Crops loss, \$6,000; property damage, \$21,500.
Latimer County, Okla.	24	6 p. m.	140	0	4,000	do.	Path west to northeast; 2 persons injured.
Schullsbury to De Forest, Wis.	24	8-9 a. m.	100-133			Thundersquall	5 farm homes damaged; barns or other farm buildings and machinery wrecked or damaged on 20 farms. On the west shore of Lake Mendota, 30 homes and cottages were wrecked or damaged. Many trees broken; utility service disrupted; livestock and chickens killed. 2 persons injured by debris and 1 by lightning.
Onaway, Mich.	24					do.	School and house trailer destroyed; barn damaged; loss not estimated.
Newburgh, N. Y., west of.	26	4:30-5 p. m., E. D. S. T.	15		25,100	Hail	Loss principally in fruit and vegetables; path 3 miles long.
Kendrick, Idaho, vicinity of.	26	P. m.			250,000	Heavy rain	The sudden rainfall in late afternoon caused a flash flood, with much damage to a number of buildings, demolished 3 automobiles, and caused great loss to prospective crops and some loss of livestock. 4 miles of highway washed out.
Beaufort, Berkeley, and Dorchester Counties, S. C.	27	1:30-4:30 p. m.			126,500	Thunderstorm and heavy hail	Entire Beaufort County was in the path of the storm, with most damage in a 6-mile stretch from Pritchardville through Frogmore. Loss in crops, especially tomatoes, \$75,000; livestock, \$1,000; property damage, \$10,000. Hail caused 70 percent of loss. In the McBeth and Bowman area in Berkeley County, the ground was covered by hail to a depth of 5 and 6 inches. In Dorchester County heavy hail fell between Reevesville and Harleyville, with chief loss in tobacco. Extent of damage not known.
Sidney, Nebr., vicinity of.	27	2-11 p. m., M. S. T.			300,000	Wind	Over an area of about 20,000 acres, buildings and cars were damaged. Roofs blown off 61 munition storage shelters.
Glen St. Mary, Fla.	27	2:30 p. m.				Hail and wind	Extent of damage not determined. Peach, pear, pecan, and persimmon crops damaged. Only \$200 wind damage to property; estimate of damage from hail not given.
Wilbon, McCullers, and Apex, N. C.	27	6-6:30 p. m.	1 1/2-4		100,000	Hail, wind, and rain	Cotton crop complete loss; much loss in tobacco and corn; grain crop reduced 50-percent.
Gallatin County, Mont.	27	8-10 p. m.			10,000	Heavy hail	Loss in crops.
Hill County, Mont.	27	P. m.			10,000	Wind	Property damaged.
Boston, Mass.	27-28	4:50 p. m., 27-28, 8:10 p. m., 28.				Northeaster	All harbor traffic stopped; beaching or swamping of several small craft in Wollaston Bay and Marblehead Harbor. Damage to trees and power lines in Greater Boston and in the Wakefield and Saugus area. Maximum wind velocity reached at time of low tide, saving coastal communications from possible loss from high water.
Wellsford to Cullison, Kans., and vicinities.	29	5 p. m.		1	150,000	Tornado and hail	Considerable property damage in Cullison. Property damage, \$100,000; loss in crops, \$50,000. 5 vortex clouds observed; path 7 miles long.
Forestburg, Tex.	29	6 p. m.		0		Tornado	House demolished; several buildings damaged.
Hastings, Nebr., east of.	29	6-11 p. m., C. S. T.	12		55,000	Heavy hail and wind	Loss in wheat, oats, and barley, \$50,000. Damage to buildings, \$5,000.
San Antonio, Tex.	29	6:30 p. m.	17		1,350,000	Wind	No estimate on crop loss.
Penalosa, Kans.	29	7:40 p. m.		0		Tornado	No damage reported due to this storm.
Ellis County, Kans.	29	11:15 p. m.—midnight	19		50,000	Heavy hail	Principal loss in wheat; path 11 miles long.
Pratt, Kans.	29	P. m.				do.	Chief loss in wheat ranging from 25 to 100 percent.
Sumner and Cowley Counties, Kans.	30	1 p. m.		0		Tornado	Few windows broken, minor damage to buildings.
Union, Clarke, and Lucas Counties, Iowa.	30	3:15 p. m.		0	600,000	Wind, tornado, and hail	Property damaged, 4 persons injured. Length of tornado in Union and Clarke Counties about 40 miles; width varied from 1/2 to 6 miles.
Arkansas City, Kans., and vicinities.	31	2:15 p. m.	13	0	10,000	do.	Property damaged; path 5 miles long;
Oklahoma City, Okla.	31	5:45 p. m.			4,000	Electrical	2 persons injured; spire on top of Oklahoma City University building damaged by lightning.
Owage and Franklin Counties, Kans.	30	7-7:30 p. m.	12		100,000	Heavy hail	In some places hailstones covered the ground to depth of 2 inches. Crops total loss; rabbits and birds killed; path 30 miles long.
Arkansas City, Kans.	30	P. m.		0		Tornado	No details.
Detroit, Mich.	31	1:18-2:42 p. m.	13-4	3	40,000	Excessive rain	Hundreds of homes damaged; many automobiles and streetcars impaired; dozens of gardens flattened or washed out; basements flooded. 2 persons drowned when their boat sank in Lake St. Clair and a man died while attempting to mop up his flooded basement.
Sharpsburg, Ohio	31	5:30 p. m.	450	0	40,000	Tornado	Several buildings on 4 farms destroyed; hogs and chickens killed; houses unroofed and otherwise damaged.

¹ Miles instead of yards.