



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Harmon County 2 W Madge	01	1628CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Greer County 6 NW Mangum	01	1630CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Harmon County 1 W Madge	01	1630CST			0	0			Hail (2.00)
Harmon County 4 SW Vinson	01	1637CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Quarter-sized hail stripped foliage from vegetation.									
Harmon County Madge	01	1640CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Harmon County 3 W Vinson	01	1641CST			0	0			Hail (2.25)
Greer County 4 W Willow	01	1645CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Roger Mills County 2 SW Durham	01	1710CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Greer County Granite	01	1725CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Kiowa County 3 W Lone Wolf	01	1739CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Kiowa County 3 W Lone Wolf	01	1747CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Kiowa County Hobart	01	1808CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Kiowa County Hobart	01	1811CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Kiowa County 9 E Hobart	01	1821CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Kiowa County 7 S Gotebo	01	1839CST 1841CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
A long, horizontal funnel cloud extended into the clear slot of the storm. No wall cloud was observed.									
Harper County 2 W Rosston	01	1847CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Caddo County 5 S Carnegie	01	1848CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Caddo County Carnegie	01	1853CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Harper County 2 N Laverne	01	1855CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Beckham County Sayre	01	1900CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Beckham County Elk City	01	1915CST			0	0	0.01K		Thunderstorm Wind
Severe thunderstorm winds downed tree limbs.									
Harper County Laverne	01	1917CST			0	0			Hail (1.50)



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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Beckham County 5 SW Elk City	01	1930CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Beckham County 4 SW Elk City	01	1932CST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind
A barn was damaged by severe thunderstorm winds.									
Harper County May	01	1935CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Washita County Canute	01	1940CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Washita County 6 W Burns Flat	01	1943CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Ellis County 4 N Catesby	01	1945CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Woods County 15 NW Freedom	01	1950CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Woodward County Fort Supply	01	1953CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Ellis County 8 N Gage	01	2007CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Washita County 1 SE Bessie	01	2007CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Ellis County 5 N Gage	01	2010CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Washita County 4 WNW Bessie	01	2010CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
measured at the Oklahoma Mesonet site									
Washita County Burns Flat	01	2010CST			0	0	20K		Hail (1.75)
Wind-driven hail as large as golf balls broke windows and dented 11 cars parked at the old Clinton-Sherman Air Base. Fences and roofs of buildings were also damaged.									
Woodward County 10 N Woodward	01	2010CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Woodward County 13 N Mooreland	01	2028CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Custer County 4 S Weatherford	01	2035CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Ellis County Shattuck	01	2035CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Woods County Waynoka	01	2040CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Woodward County 7 NW Woodward	01	2042CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Washita County 4 W Corn	01	2045CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Woodward County 2 W Mooreland	01	2048CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Alfalfa County Burlington	01	2056CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)



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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Caddo County									
2 N Hinton	01	2102CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Blaine County									
1 SW Geary	01	2105CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Canadian County									
Calumet	01	2125CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Grant County									
Wakita	01	2130CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Roger Mills County									
Reydon	01	2130CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Woodward County									
4 W Woodward	01	2130CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Alfalfa County									
Byron	01	2145CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Major County									
4 ENE Meno	01	2145CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Woodward County									
Woodward	01	2145CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Kingfisher County									
1 E Okarche	01	2146CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G55)
Alfalfa County									
5 S Cherokee	01	2152CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Roger Mills County									
Reydon	01	2152CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Garfield County									
3 W Carrier	01	2200CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)

Summary of events of May 1, 1997:

Severe thunderstorms developed during the late afternoon and moved across western Oklahoma into portions of central and north-central Oklahoma during the evening. Reports of large hail were common, with hail up to 2.25 inches near Vinson in Harmon County in extreme southwest Oklahoma. Wind-driven hail up to golf ball sized (1.75 inches) caused extensive damage in Burns Flat in Washita County.

Reports of severe thunderstorm winds were much less common than large hail, with wind damage in and near Elk City in Beckham County and gusts to 63 mph east of Okarche in Kingfisher County.

See preceding individual Storm Data entries for further information and additional reports.

OKZ005

Woods

02	1635CST			0	0				High Wind (G50)
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measured at the Oklahoma Mesonet site located at May Ranch (16 miles NNE of Freedom)

Summary of events of May 2, 1997:

A strong cold front moved into northern Oklahoma during the afternoon and early evening of May 2nd. The Oklahoma Mesonet recorded sustained winds of 30 to 40 mph with gusts in the 40 to 50 mph range lasting for more than 6 hours in many locations, particularly in northwest Oklahoma. In Woods County, one wind gust was measured at 58 mph at May Ranch.

Tillman County

4 S Tipton	07	1625CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G53)
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measured at the Oklahoma Mesonet site

Alfalfa County

10 ENE Amorita	07	1640CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Grant County 2 WNW Gibbon	07	1647CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Grant County Medford	07	1718CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Grant County 2 W Wakita to 1 S Wakita	07	1800CST	2	50	0	0	3K		Tornado (F0)
A tornado touched down 2 miles west of Wakita and moved southeast to a location 1 mile south of Wakita on Highway 11A. Along this path, 9 power poles and numerous tree limbs were blown down and the cross-arms on all of the remaining utility poles were snapped.									
Grant County Wakita	07	1800CST			0	0	2K		Thunderstorm Wind
Severe thunderstorm winds blew part of the roof off of a 2-story storage building.									
Grant County 4 NW Medford	07	1805CST			0	0	7K		Thunderstorm Wind
A roof was blown off a grain elevator by severe thunderstorm winds.									
Grant County 3 SW Renfrow	07	1820CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Grant County 2 W Deer Creek	07	1836CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
at the intersection of Highways 11 and 74									
Grant County Deer Creek	07	1852CST	0.1	25	0	0			Tornado (F0)
Brief touchdown reported by County Sheriff's Office									
Grant County Deer Creek	07	1853CST	0.1	25	0	0			Tornado (F0)
Second brief touchdown reported by County Sheriff's Office									
Kay County 7 W Blackwell	07	1858CST	0.1	25	0	0			Tornado (F0)
Reported by a county spotter									
Ellis County 12 SW Arnett	07	1910CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Kay County 3 SW Ponca City	07	1940CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Grant County 8 ESE Medford	07	1945CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Grant County Medford to 16 NNE Medford	07	2000CST			0	0			Flash Flood
Highway 81 from Medford to the Kansas state line was closed due to high water covering the road at many locations.									
Grant County 6 NNE Medford	07	2000CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Grant County 3 SW Renfrow	07	2000CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Beckham County Erick	07	2015CST			0	0	10K		Thunderstorm Wind (G69)
Severe thunderstorm winds up to 79 mph caused extensive damage throughout Erick. Numerous signs, utility poles, and trees were broken in and around town, including 30 utility poles that were downed.									



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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Beckham County 4 ESE Erick	07	2025CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G69) measured at the Oklahoma Mesonet site
Beckham County 4 ESE Erick	07	2030CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G56) measured at the Oklahoma Mesonet site
Beckham County Sayre	07	2030CST			0	0	15K		Thunderstorm Wind Severe thunderstorm winds blew part of the roof off of the Sayre elementary school library. Winds also uprooted large trees and downed at least one utility pole in town. Reports of more minor tree and roof damage were widespread across Sayre.
Kay County Countywide	07	2030CST			0	0			Flash Flood Numerous roads and highways were flooded and closed across the southern half of the county. Stalled vehicles and accidents were also reported.
Roger Mills County 6 SW Cheyenne	07	2030CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G55) measured at the Oklahoma Mesonet site
Grant County Lamont	07	2037CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Beckham County Elk City	07	2045CST			0	0	35K		Thunderstorm Wind Severe thunderstorm winds in Elk City blew the roof off of one business and blew eight overhead doors out of several other businesses. On the edge of town an 11,000 pound tank trailer was blown onto its side and into a fence. Countless trees and limbs were snapped and signs were downed throughout town.
Roger Mills County 3 SW Hammon	07	2045CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Washita County Canute	07	2054CST			0	0	4K		Thunderstorm Wind (G65) Severe thunderstorm winds estimated at 75 mph blew signs down in Canute.
Custer County Arapaho	07	2100CST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind Light and power poles were blown down by severe thunderstorm winds.
Custer County 4 WSW Weatherford	07	2120CST 2125CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G70) The 5-minute average wind speed (sustained wind) from 9:20 pm to 9:25 pm CST was measured at 52 mph at the Oklahoma Mesonet site, with a peak gust during this time of 81 mph.
Kiowa County 4 SE Hobart	07	2120CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G53) measured at the Oklahoma Mesonet site.
Custer County 4 WSW Weatherford	07	2125CST 2130CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G67) The 5-minute average wind speed (sustained wind) from 9:25 pm to 9:30 pm CST was measured at 61 mph at the Oklahoma Mesonet site, with a peak gust during this time of 77 mph.
Custer County Weatherford	07	2130CST			0	0	100K		Thunderstorm Wind (G83)



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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Severe thunderstorm winds up to 96 mph (measured by a local firefighter) caused widespread and heavy damage in and around Weatherford. Extensive tree, sign, limb, fence, and window damage was reported. At least 7 power poles were snapped in the Weatherford vicinity.

Some of the most severe structural damage occurred at South Western Oklahoma State University, where the roof was blown off of the auditorium. Portions of the auditorium roof landed on and destroyed a police car. The roof was also blown off a campus elevator shaft. Pieces of this second roof landed on and crushed one car and damaged a second vehicle.

Elsewhere in town the roof was blown off of a building at an industrial park and the doors were blown in at a salvage yard. The portable bleachers were flipped over a fence and the foul pole was bent 40 degrees at the high school baseball field. Some of the tin on the front of the school cafeteria was also damaged.

Just east of town, severe thunderstorm winds caused 4 tractor-trailer trucks to jack-knife and blew another semi-truck over on I-40. The interstate was completely closed for one and a half hours as the trucks were cleared from the highway.

Custer County

4 WSW Weatherford	07	2130CST 2135CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G55)
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The 5-minute average wind speed (sustained wind) from 9:30 pm to 9:35 pm CST was measured at 50 mph at the Oklahoma Mesonet site, with a peak gust during this time of 63 mph.

Harmon County

2 W Mc Knight	07	2140CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
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Kay County

3 SW Ponca City	07	2140CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
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Blaine County

7 W Watonga	07	2150CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G56)
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measured at the Oklahoma Mesonet site

Caddo County

Binger	07	2150CST			0	1	60K		Thunderstorm Wind
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Severe thunderstorm winds estimated at up to 90 mph caused widespread damage and one injury in Binger. One man was injured when his mobile home was overturned, pinning him between a tree and some of the debris from the home. His family, including a wife and 4 children, was also inside the house but escaped uninjured.

Elsewhere in the area a tree was blown over onto a pickup truck and several storefront windows were blown out in town. The roof was blown off of the grandstand at the local fairgrounds and steel posts were pulled from concrete at a ranch. A farm implement business sustained major damage to both its building and to some of the equipment. The roof was completely removed from the building and several combines were blown into each other. A combine and hopper were blown across a highway, about 40 yards from their original location.

Custer County

Clinton	07	2150CST			0	0	80K		Thunderstorm Wind (G61)
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Severe thunderstorm winds caused widespread damage in and around Clinton. At the Clinton Airport an airplane was tossed 200 feet, one hangar was destroyed, and eight other hangars sustained heavy damage. Power was knocked out across much of the city. South of town two barns were severely damaged and a mobile home was blown over. On I-40 near Clinton six tractor-trailer trucks were blown over by the severe winds.

Washita County

Cordell	07	2200CST			0	0	0.50K		Thunderstorm Wind
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Power lines were blown down by severe thunderstorm winds.

Canadian County

El Reno	07	2212CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G61)
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reported by the Sheriff's Office

Oklahoma County

Oklahoma City	07	2245CST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
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A 500 lb. radiator was blown over at I-240 and Sooner Road by severe thunderstorm winds estimated at 60 mph.

Noble County

9 NW Perry	07	2300CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Water covered US Hwy 64 west of US Hwy 177.

Noble County

7 SSE Red Rock	07	2315CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G51)
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measured at the Oklahoma Mesonet site

Noble County

Red Rock	08	0130CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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Water covered Hwy 15 just west of Red Rock.

Summary of events of May 7, 1997:

Severe thunderstorms moved through parts of western, central, and north-central Oklahoma during the afternoon and evening of May 7th. Reports of large hail, flash flooding, damaging severe winds, and four tornadoes were received.

The first tornado, and the only tornado that caused damage, moved from west of Wakita to south of Wakita in Grant County. Because the damage was limited to power poles and trees, the tornado was rated as F0. The second and third tornadoes, both brief and rated F0, were reported near Deer Creek (also in Grant County) by the county sheriff's office. The fourth and final tornado was observed west of Blackwell in Kay County by a county spotter. Once again, no damage resulted and the tornado was rated F0.

Severe straight-line winds officially measured at up to 81 mph (near Weatherford in Custer County) caused widespread and extensive damage in portions of western Oklahoma. Beckham and Custer Counties were particularly hard-hit with major damage in Erick, Sayre, Elk City, Arapaho, Weatherford, Binger, and Clinton. Other wind damage also occurred in Wakita and near Medford in Grant County, in Canute and Cordell in Washita County, and in Oklahoma City in Oklahoma County.

The largest hail was reported southwest of Renfrow in Grant County, where hail as large as golf balls fell.

Flash flooding also occurred as storms moved repeatedly across parts of north-central Oklahoma producing very heavy rain. Reports of flash flooding were received from Grant County in and around Medford, most of southern Kay County, and Noble County near Red Rock and Perry.

See preceding individual Storm Data entries for further details and additional reports.

Harmon County

5 E Hollis	08	1527CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
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Harmon County

7 SE Hollis	08	1535CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
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Jackson County

9 W Altus	08	1535CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
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Harmon County

3 SSE Gould	08	1550CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
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Jackson County

6 SW Duke	08	1605CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
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Tillman County

4 S Tipton	08	1625CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G53)
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measured at the Oklahoma Mesonet site

Tillman County

Tipton	08	1631CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
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Tillman County

Frederick	08	1638CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
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Tillman County

Frederick	08	1645CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
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Dime to quarter-sized hail covered the ground.

Jackson County

5 SE Elmer	08	1700CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Jackson County									
6 SE Elmer	08	1705CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)

Tillman County									
4 W Grandfield	08	1734CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)

Carter County									
Healdton	08	1930CST			0	0	0.50K		Thunderstorm Wind

Severe thunderstorm winds downed power lines in Healdton.

Canadian County									
Yukon	08	2115CST			0	0			Hail (1.50)

at the Xerox plant on I-40

Oklahoma County									
Oklahoma City	08	2207CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)

at SE 30th and I-35

Summary of events of May 8, 1997:

Severe thunderstorms moved from southwest Oklahoma into south-central and parts of central Oklahoma during the afternoon and early evening of the 8th. Hail as large as golf balls was reported in Frederick and Tipton in Tillman County, southeast of Hollis in Harmon County, and southwest of Duke in Jackson County. Severe thunderstorm winds were measured at speeds up to 61 mph south of Tipton in Tillman County and wind damage occurred in Healdton in Carter County. See preceding individual Storm Data entries for further details and additional reports.

Kay County									
4 SSE Blackwell	19	0205CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G56)

measured at the Oklahoma Mesonet site

Kay County									
Ponca City (Kpnc)	19	0216CST			0	0	0.10K		Thunderstorm Wind (G50)

Wind gusts to 58 mph were measured at the Ponca City Municipal Airport (KPNC). Limbs and trees were downed throughout town by the severe winds.

Garfield County									
Enid	19	0600CST			0	0	5K		Lightning

Lightning struck a three-story brick building on the Phillips University Campus, damaging the front and the roof.

Cleveland County									
Norman	19	0700CST			0	0	0.10K		Thunderstorm Wind

Large trees were downed in town by severe thunderstorm winds. (time estimated)

Cleveland County									
Norman	19	0705CST			0	0	10K		Lightning

Lightning struck and set fire to a house.

Seminole County									
Seminole	19	0800CST			0	0	0.01K		Thunderstorm Wind

Numerous large tree limbs were downed in Seminole. (time estimated)

Summary of events of May 19, 1997:

Late night and early morning thunderstorms produced severe straight-line winds that resulted in tree and limb damage in parts of north-central and central Oklahoma. The highest measured wind speed was 64 mph at the Oklahoma Mesonet site near Blackwell in Kay County. Damage was reported in Ponca City in Kay County, in Norman in Cleveland County, and in Seminole in Seminole County.

Lightning damage was also reported in Enid in Garfield County and in Norman in Cleveland County.

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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Ellis County 6 N Gage	23	1505CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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Ellis County 8 N Gage	23	1506CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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State Highway 46 was under water due to flash flooding.

Ellis County 8 NE Shattuck	23	1520CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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Crops were under water after 3.3 inches of rain during the afternoon.

Ellis County 7 N Gage	23	1605CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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Three feet of water covered State Highway 46.

Summary of events of May 23, 1997:

Several slow-moving thunderstorms moved across Ellis County during the afternoon of the 23rd. One report of 3/4 inch hail was received; however, flash flooding was of greater impact after extended periods of heavy rain. Highway 46 was covered by as much as 3 feet of water and crops were completely flooded in some areas.

Beckham County 12 N Erick	24	2016CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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Roger Mills County 5 WNW Angora	24	2059CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
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Carter County Ardmore	24	2130CST			0	0	1.5K		Lightning
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Lightning struck and set fire to a storage shed.

Dewey County 5 S Taloga	24	2148CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
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Carter County Ardmore	25	0055CST			0	0	8K		Lightning
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Lightning struck and set fire to a vacant house. Damage was estimated at \$8000.

McClain County Newcastle	25	0145CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
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Cleveland County Norman	25	0155CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
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Nickel-sized hail fell on the northwest side of Norman.

Summary of events of May 24, 1997 to early morning of May 25, 1997:

Thunderstorms moved into western Oklahoma late in the evening of the 24th, producing nickel-sized hail near Angora in Roger Mills County and south of Taloga in Dewey County. As the storms moved into central Oklahoma overnight, nickel-sized hail also fell in Norman in Cleveland County and in Newcastle in McClain County.

In Carter County in south-central Oklahoma lightning struck and set fire to a house and a shed in Ardmore.

See preceding individual Storm Data entries for further details and additional reports.

Grady County 1 W Amber	25	1452CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
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Grady County 2.5 E Middleberg	25	1512CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
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Grady County 3 NE Tabler to 2.5 SSW Middleberg	25	1514CST 1524CST	2.5	75	0	0	24K		Tornado (F1)
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National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

This description, with very minimal editing, was taken from a damage survey conducted by a National Weather Service meteorologist on Monday May 26th (Memorial Day), the day after the tornado occurred.

This tornado, rated F1, began 3 miles northeast of Tabler at 15:14 CST and tracked just south of due east for about 2.5 miles before dissipating 2.5 miles south-southwest of Middleberg at 15:24 CST. The maximum width of the damage path was 75 yards. Structural damage was confined to a dairy farm near the beginning of the track; otherwise, this tornado remained over mostly open country.

Spotter observations and corresponding video confirm that the first tornado formed rapidly west of State Highway 9 at 15:14 CST, in mostly open country between Tabler and Middleberg. Survey results located the first signs of damage to trees just west of the Mid-Am Dairy Farm (or R & S Dairy), located 3 miles northeast of Tabler. More than a dozen trees lost large branches near and west of the dairy. At the dairy itself, a mobile home was destroyed, power lines were downed, and two metal outbuildings suffered heavy damage to roofs and walls. Metal grain silos also were damaged. Considering the construction of the outbuildings and the large piles of hay bales near the mobile home that were relatively unaffected, damage in this area was rated F1. The maximum path width of about 75 yards, based on visible damage and on video, was estimated to be in this area.

Observations and video indicate that the tornado then proceeded eastward and eventually east-southeastward, narrowing to a thin, mostly vertical rope funnel that underwent several cycles of lifting and returning to ground contact. However, the circulation was likely in contact with the ground the entire time. The funnel crossed Highway 9 around 15:22 CST 2.5 miles southwest of Middleberg, where several trees lost large branches and a road sign was damaged. Between the dairy and this point, the tornado track was inaccessible. Although the funnel lifted from the ground shortly after crossing the highway, video confirms that a tight, small circulation with ground condensation persisted, crossing an open field southeast of the road. This rotation at the ground lasted about another two minutes before dissipating at about 15:24 CST. Since the tornado passed over open country, no further damage was found.

Grady County									
2.5 E Middleberg	25	1515CST			0	0			Hail (2.50)
Grady County									
2.5 N Tabler	25	1517CST			0	0	10K		Thunderstorm Wind
									The roof was blown off a mobile home by severe thunderstorm winds.
McClain County									
Blanchard	25	1520CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
McClain County									
1 N Blanchard	25	1525CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
McClain County									
7 WSW Purcell to 4 S Purcell	25	1600CST 1624CST	6	1320	0	2	900K		Tornado (F2)



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Injured	Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

This description was taken almost entirely, and with minimal editing, from a damage survey conducted Monday May 26th (Memorial Day), the day after the tornado, by a National Weather Service meteorologist.

This tornado, rated F2, began 5 miles east of Criner, or 7 miles west-southwest of downtown Purcell, in southern McClain County. The beginning time of this tornado is not entirely certain but is believed to be near or just after 16:00 CST. This tornado tracked just south of due east for 6 miles, ending about 4 miles northwest of Wayne or 4 miles south of downtown Purcell at around 16:24 CST. At its widest, the damage path was estimated to be 3/4 mile wide. Numerous power lines were downed, prompting the temporary closing of both Highways 24 and 74 for a time during the evening. At least 18 dwellings, including mobile homes and permanent dwellings, were destroyed or suffered major damage. This probably was a multiple-vortex tornado, at least in its latter stages, based on eyewitness reports. No one was killed or seriously injured by this tornado, but two minor injuries were reported.

Damage began along a concentrated path from along Highway 24 around 3 miles south and 1 mile east of Woody Chapel (which is located at the intersection of Highways 39 and 24 about 3 miles south of Washington). Details are described below, highlighting six areas along the damage track.

Along Hwy 24, 5 miles east of Criner, sheet metal was scattered over about a 1/4 to 1/2 mile path, apparently the remnants of a destroyed outbuilding. Several large trees were toppled or heavily damaged in this area. Damage was F1. Tree damage also was noted over a larger area 1 mile west of this location (or 3 miles south of Woody Chapel on Highway 24), along with a few pieces of sheet metal debris. Since damage in this area was more minor (small to medium size branches broken) and not concentrated, straight-line winds were considered the likely source.

Also along Hwy 24, from Hwy 112 southward for about a mile, power lines were downed along a 1/4 to 1/2 mile stretch of the road. Considerable debris was found from fallen trees, metal outbuildings, etc. Damage was F1.

About 1 mile east of Hwy 24 and 1 mile south of Hwy 112, a home was unroofed. Widespread but mostly minor tree damage was noted, with trees uprooted and/or branches snapped off. Aside from the home with the damaged roof, there were few if any other manmade structures in the area. Damage probably was F1, but an exact determination could not be made since the roof was being repaired at the time of the survey.

On Emu Road, 1/2 to 1 mile south of Hwy 112 and 2 miles east of Hwy 24, one permanent home was destroyed. Numerous large trees were downed - some snapped off, and others uprooted. Several of the uprooted trees fell toward the northwest, others to the southwest. Damage was considered F2.

At Highway 74 and Horse Road, (3.5 to 4.5 miles east of Hwy 24 and 1 mile south of Hwy 112), the worst damage and widest damage path (about 3/4 mile wide) were in this area. Power lines were downed along Hwy 74 for nearly a mile. Numerous large trees were snapped off or uprooted. In one area between the two roads, nearly every tree suffered some kind of significant damage. Two mobile homes were destroyed along Horse Road. One was blown east and landed across the street near a church. The other rolled three times and landed 50 to 100 feet northeast of its original location. Two women, a mother and daughter, were inside the second mobile home and were lucky to escape with only minor injuries. Metal outbuildings, satellite dishes, fences, and at least one pickup truck were destroyed - mostly by impacts from other blown objects. However, the church, which was brick, sustained only minor structural damage to the exterior, as the roof was intact and only a few shingles were missing. (Broken windows in the church led to more substantial damage on the interior as rain and wind entered the building.) Damage in this area was considered F2, but the fact that the church escaped with such minor damage to its exterior suggests either a lower rating or the possibility of a multiple-vortex tornado. At least one eyewitness indicated a second tornado. Although the entire damage track appeared consistent and more-or-less continuous, suggesting only one tornado, the eyewitness account and the observed gradients in damage intensity suggest that this probably was a multiple-vortex tornado, at least in its latter stages.

From 1/4 to 1/2 mile east of Horse Road, a large home suffered major damage, with most of the second floor destroyed. Downed trees were widespread. Damage was rated F2. Another home immediately east of this location lost part of its roof. But farther east, near Interstate 35, several homes were undamaged and no significant damage could be found - except for a lone uprooted tree immediately west of the interstate.

Caddo County									
Apache	25	1605CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
McClain County									
Purcell	25	1623CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Caddo County									
4 SW Cyril	25	1627CST	0.1	25	0	0			Tornado (F0)

A tornado was reported by spotters southwest of Cyril near the Caddo/Comanche County line. (This is the same tornado as 1 N Fletcher in Comanche County.) No reported damage.



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Comanche County

1 N Fletcher 25 1627CST 0.1 25 0 0 **Tornado (F0)**

A tornado was reported by spotters just north of Fletcher near the Caddo/Comanche County line. (This is the same tornado as 4 SW Cyril in Caddo County.) No reported damage.

Cleveland County

Lexington 25 1630CST 0 0 **Hail (1.00)**

McClain County

2 NNE Wayne 25 1632CST 0.2 20 0 0 1K **Tornado (F0)**

This description was taken almost entirely from a damage survey conducted by a National Weather Service meteorologist. An outbuilding was damaged on a farm along a section of road 2 miles north and 1 mile east of Wayne, about 1 mile south of the south bank of the Canadian River. Sheet metal was dispersed across the area, and a few trees were damaged. Otherwise this tornado remained in open country. Initial development, based on video, was around 16:32 CST with a duration of less than 2 minutes before it quickly dissipated. Maximum path width was 20 yards or less, path length was 1/4 mile or less, and damage was rated F0.

McClain County

5 SW Purcell 25 1640CST 0 0 7K **Thunderstorm Wind**

Severe thunderstorm winds blew a roof off a barn, uprooted trees, blew siding off a house, and destroyed small metal storage buildings.

Grady County

Rush Springs 25 1645CST 0 0 **Hail (1.00)**

Stephens County

Empire City 25 1655CST 0 0 **Hail (1.00)**

Stephens County

Duncan 25 1720CST 0 0 **Hail (1.00)**

Stephens County

3 S Duncan 25 1725CST 0 0 10K **Lightning**

Lightning struck and set fire to a mobile home

Garvin County

7 S Maysville 25 1728CST 0.1 25 0 0 **Tornado (F0)**

Brief tornado touchdown reported near Antioch (7 miles south of Maysville) by spotters. No reported damage.

Garvin County

Wynnewood 25 1730CST 0 0 0.10K **Thunderstorm Wind**

Severe thunderstorm winds uprooted 2 large trees.

Stephens County

3 S Duncan 25 1736CST
1744CST 0.5 50 0 0 50K **Tornado (F1)**

A tornado was observed about 3 miles south of Duncan and 1 mile east of Highway 81 by storm spotters. At this location (on "Old Highway 81"), a travel trailer was destroyed, a roof was blown off a large workshop, a brick home was damaged by a falling tree, and a van was damaged. Nearby trees were uprooted, power lines were downed, and a mobile home was destroyed. A puppy that had been inside the damaged mobile home was found 1/4 mile north of the house in someone else's yard. In the same area, 8 empty grain train cars were blown over off a side track.

Garvin County

2.5 W Wynnewood 25 1805CST 0 0 **Hail (1.75)**

Garvin County

6 E Wynnewood 25 1805CST 0 0 **Hail (1.00)**

Murray County

1 E Joy 25 1807CST 0.1 25 0 0 **Tornado (F0)**

A brief tornado was observed east of Joy. No reported damage.

Garvin County

7 S Stratford 25 1813CST 0.1 25 0 0 **Tornado (F0)**

A brief tornado was reported by an Oklahoma Highway Patrol officer. No reported damage.



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Garvin County									
7 S Stratford	25	1815CST			0	0			Hail (3.00)
Pontotoc County									
Roff	25	1830CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Pontotoc County									
Roff	25	1834CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Pontotoc County									
5 S Roff	25	1837CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Carter County									
Lone Grove	25	1847CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Johnston County									
3 NW Connerville	25	1850CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
Pontotoc County									
8 SW Fittstown	25	1853CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Pontotoc County									
8 SW Fittstown	25	1853CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G70)
			Estimated 70 to 80 mph winds						
Pontotoc County									
6 SW Fittstown	25	1855CST			0	0	6K		Thunderstorm Wind (G70)
			Severe thunderstorm winds estimated at 80 mph blew a roof off a barn and downed trees.						
Pontotoc County									
8 E Roff	25	1858CST	0.5	30	0	0	3K		Tornado (F0)
			A tornado unroofed a barn and downed a swath of trees.						
Johnston County									
1 E Connerville	25	1905CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
Johnston County									
2.5 NE Mill Creek	25	1920CST	0.1	25	0	0			Tornado (F0)
			Reported by spotter. No reported damage.						
Marshall County									
8 WNW Madill	25	1943CST	0.1	25	0	0			Tornado (F0)
			Reported by spotter. No reported damage.						
Coal County									
2 N Tupelo	25	1948CST	0.1	25	0	0			Tornado (F0)
			Reported by emergency manager. No reported damage.						
Atoka County									
4 E Atoka	25	2020CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Atoka County									
Atoka	25	2020CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Kay County									
3 E Newkirk	25	2105CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Kay County									
3 NW Newkirk	25	2110CST	0.1	50	0	0	0.10K		Tornado (F0)
			A tornado downed a swath of trees northwest of Newkirk.						
Kay County									
5 W Hardy	25	2115CST			0	0	0.10K		Thunderstorm Wind
			Severe thunderstorm winds downed trees.						



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Bryan County 3 SW Silo	25	2145CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Pushmataha County 1 W Antlers	25	2200CST			0	0	0.50K		Thunderstorm Wind
Severe thunderstorm winds downed power lines and trees.									
Pushmataha County Darwin	25	2239CST			0	0			Hail (2.75)

Summary of events of the afternoon and evening of May 25, 1997:

Severe thunderstorms developed during the afternoon in central Oklahoma and spread into southern Oklahoma during the late afternoon and evening. In all, thirteen tornadoes were confirmed, including an F2 tornado that tracked for 6 miles through McClain County southwest of Purcell. Some minor injuries were reported with one of the tornadoes, but no fatalities or serious injuries occurred. Reports of 3-inch hail, severe straight-line winds, and lightning damage were also received.

One particularly strong supercell storm tracked across central Oklahoma, reaching its maximum strength and producing 3 tornadoes and extensive straight-line wind damage over Grady and McClain Counties. What follows here is an excerpt from a damage survey conducted by a National Weather Service meteorologist on May 26th, the day after the storm.

"A large severe thunderstorm moved through northern and central Grady County into central and southern McClain County during the late afternoon on Sunday, 25 May 1997. Several reports were received immediately after the storm indicating significant wind damage, especially in southern McClain County southwest of Purcell. There also were numerous confirmed tornado sightings by storm spotters, chasers, local emergency management officials, and local residents.

Findings indicate that 3 tornadoes occurred in this area. Most of the damage, and all of the significant structural damage, resulted from the first two tornadoes. Widespread tree damage in some areas, especially in McClain County, was attributed to straight-line winds.

The first tornado, rated F1, began 3 miles northeast of Tabler at 15:14 CST and tracked just south of due east for about 2.5 miles before dissipating 2.5 miles SSW of Middleberg at 15:24 CST. Structural damage was confined to a dairy farm near the beginning of the track; otherwise, this tornado remained over mostly open country.

The second and more significant tornado, rated F2, began 5 miles east of Criner, or 7 miles WSW of downtown Purcell, in southern McClain County. The beginning time of this tornado is less certain but is believed to be near or just after 16:00 CST. This tornado also tracked just south of due east for 6 miles, ending about 4 miles NW of Wayne or 4 miles S of downtown Purcell at around 16:24 CST. Numerous power lines were downed, prompting the temporary closing of both Highways 24 and 74 for a time Sunday evening. At least 18 dwellings, including mobile homes and permanent dwellings, were destroyed or suffered major damage. This probably was a multiple-vortex tornado, at least in its latter stages, based on eyewitness reports.

A third small tornado, rated F0, formed around 16:32 CST and lasted about one or two minutes. It damaged an outbuilding and a few trees 2 miles NNE of Wayne in Southern McClain County, about 4 miles east of where the second tornado ended.

No one was killed or seriously injured by any of the tornadoes, but several minor injuries were reported. "

The remaining 10 tornadoes were associated with other severe thunderstorms, mainly across central and southern Oklahoma. The strongest of these occurred south of Duncan in Stephens County at 17:36 CST. Spotter and damage reports rated this as an F1 tornado. The remaining 9 tornadoes were all rated F0 and resulted in little or no damage. In chronological order, these tornadoes occurred on the Caddo Comanche County line between Cyril and Fletcher (16:27CST), south of Maysville in Garvin County (17:28 CST), east of Joy in Murray County (18:07 CST), south of Stratford in Garvin County (18:13 CST), east of Roff in Pontotoc County (18:53 CST), northeast of Mill Creek in Johnston County (19:20 CST), west-northwest of Madill in Marshall County, (19:43 CST), north of Tupelo in Coal County (19:48 CST), and northwest of Newkirk in Kay County (21:10 CST).

Severe straight-line winds were estimated at up to 80 mph (southwest of Fittstown in Pontotoc County). Wind damage from thunderstorm winds occurred north of Tabler in Grady County, southwest of Purcell in McClain County, in Wynnewood in Garvin County, west of Hardy in Kay County, and west of Antlers in Pushmataha County.

Hail up to 3 inches in diameter fell south of Stratford in Garvin County, and lightning damage was reported south of Duncan in Stephens County.

See preceding individual Storm Data entries for further details and additional reports.



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Seminole County
Cromwell

26 1725CST 0 0 Hail (0.75)

Seminole County
1 N Cromwell

26 1745CST 0.1 50 0 0 15K Tornado (F0)

A tornado was seen 1 mile north of Highway 99A on Highway 56. The tornado blew the roof off of a detached garage, destroyed a storage shed and its contents, pulled sections of chain-link fence from the ground, and caused minor tree damage at a residence. A new pickup truck at the site also sustained major damage. On the house itself (a stone structure), only the screen door was damaged. Total damage was estimated at \$15,000.

Seminole County
**1 SW Cromwell to
1 E Cromwell**

26 1747CST
1748CST 1.5 50 0 0 Tornado (F0)

Emergency management officials reported a tornado moving from southwest of Cromwell to about 1 mile east of Cromwell. No damage was reported along this path.

Hughes County
3 E Citra

26 1900CST 0 0 Hail (0.75)

Hughes County
2 SE Dustin

26 1900CST 0.1 25 0 0 Tornado (F0)

Tornado touched down briefly. No damage was reported.

Hughes County
3.5 S Dustin

26 1900CST 0 0 25K Thunderstorm Wind

Severe thunderstorm winds destroyed a barn and feed silo and lifted a mobile home from its foundation, causing extensive damage. A dog pen was also lifted and blown onto a dog, killing the animal. A large tree was uprooted at this same location.

Pontotoc County
4 E Ada

26 1911CST 0 0 Hail (1.00)

Pontotoc County
Stonewall

26 1911CST 0 0 Hail (0.75)

Pontotoc County
1 NE Allen

26 1929CST 0 0 Hail (1.75)

Johnston County
Mannsville

26 1940CST 0 0 Hail (0.75)

Marshall County
4 N Madill

26 1945CST 0 0 Hail (1.75)

Marshall County
6 W Madill

26 2000CST 0 0 Hail (0.75)

Johnston County
1.5 SW Russett

26 2005CST 0.1 25 0 0 Tornado (F0)

Tornado reported on the Johnston/Marshall County line at the intersection of highways 1 and 199 by local emergency management officials. (same as 6 NW Madill in Marshall County). No reported damage.

Marshall County
6 NW Madill

26 2005CST 0.1 25 0 0 Tornado (F0)

Tornado reported on the Johnston/Marshall County line at the intersection of Highways 1 and 199 by local emergency management officials. (Same tornado as 1.5 SW Russett in Johnston County). No reported damage.

Marshall County
2 SW Madill

26 2019CST 0.1 25 0 0 Tornado (F0)

Tornado with no reported damage.

Johnston County
1 S Russett

26 2020CST 0.1 25 0 0 Tornado (F0)

Tornado with no reported damage.



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Marshall County 2 W Little City	26	2041CST	0.1	25	0	0			Tornado (F0)
Tornado reported by Oklahoma Highway Patrol. No reported damage.									
Marshall County 1 S Madill	26	2124CST	0.1	25	0	0			Tornado (F0)
Tornado reported by Oklahoma Highway Patrol. No reported damage.									
Marshall County Madill	26	2139CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Marshall County 1 E Kingston	26	2142CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Bryan County 3 SW Silo	26	2145CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Pushmataha County 4 S Clayton	26	2145CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Pushmataha County Cloudy	26	2300CST			0	0	0.10K		Thunderstorm Wind
Severe thunderstorm winds downed trees.									
Pushmataha County 3 E Cloudy	26	2305CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Pushmataha County 3 E Cloudy	26	2305CST			0	0	0.01K		Thunderstorm Wind
Five-inch limbs were blown off trees by severe thunderstorm winds.									
Pushmataha County 3 NE Rattan	26	2330CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
Choctaw County 1 E Ord	27	0030CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)

Summary of events of May 26, 1997:

Severe thunderstorms moved through parts of central and southeastern Oklahoma during the evening of Memorial Day, May 26th, and lasted into the early morning hours of the 27th. In all, eight tornadoes, hail as large as golf balls, and damaging severe thunderstorm winds were reported. No injuries or fatalities occurred as a result of the storms.

The only damage reported with any of the tornadoes occurred with the first tornado 1 mile north of Cromwell in Seminole County. At this location, damage was mainly limited to outbuildings and trees and the tornado was rated F0. Since the remaining seven tornadoes resulted in no known damage, they were also rated F0. These tornadoes occurred in Seminole County southwest of Cromwell (17:47 CST), in Hughes County southeast of Dustin (19:00 CST), on the Johnston/Marshall County line between Russett and Madill (20:05 CST), and in Marshall County southwest of Madill (20:19 CST), south of Russett (20:20 CST), west of Little City (20:41 CST), and south of Madill (21:24 CST).

In addition to the tornadoes, hail up to 1.75 inches in diameter fell in Pontotoc County northeast of Allen and in Marshall County in and north of Madill.

Severe thunderstorm winds damaged trees east of Cloudy and in Cloudy in Pushmataha County. Significant structural damage was also attributed to thunderstorm winds south of Dustin in Hughes County.

See preceding individual Storm Data entries for further details and additional reports.

Woods County 5 NW Lookout	29	1755CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
on Hwy 34 at the Oklahoma/Kansas border									
Harper County 2 N Laverne	29	1814CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Harper County									
6 E Laverne	29	1830CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Ellis County									
17 N Gage	29	1850CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Ellis County									
Fargo	29	1915CST			0	0			Hail (2.00)
Woodward County									
7 S Tangier	29	1925CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Woodward County									
10 W Sharon	29	1933CST			0	0			Hail (2.50)
Woodward County									
9 SW Sharon	29	1955CST	0.1	10	0	0			Tornado (F0)
Brief tornado touchdown. No reported damage.									
Ellis County									
6 E Harmon	29	2000CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Dewey County									
5 NW Leedey	29	2045CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
Ellis County									
1 SE Harmon	29	2050CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Roger Mills County									
2 E Angora	29	2100CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Roger Mills County									
2 E Angora	29	2100CST			0	0	0.01K		Thunderstorm Wind
Two-inch limbs were blown off trees.									
Custer County									
2 W Thomas	29	2107CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Severe thunderstorm wind gusts were estimated by a spotter to be 60 mph.									
Tillman County									
6 NE Frederick	30	0055CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Hail as large as quarters covered the ground northeast of Frederick.									
Tillman County									
1 S Hollister	30	0130CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)

Summary of events of May 29, 1997 to early morning of May 30, 1997:

Severe thunderstorms moved through western Oklahoma during the evening of the 29th, producing large hail, damaging thunderstorm winds, and one tornado.

The tornado was observed southwest of Sharon in Woodward County. No damage was reported and the tornado was rated F0. Elsewhere in Woodward County, hail as large as tennis balls fell west of Sharon.

Severe thunderstorm winds were estimated at speeds of 60 mph northwest of Lookout in Woods County and west of Thomas in Custer County. Tree damage was attributed to thunderstorm winds east of Angora in Roger Mills County.

See preceding individual Storm Data entries for further details and additional reports.

TEXAS, North Central

Hardeman County									
1 W Quanah	01	2350CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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TEXAS, North Central

Hardeman County

Quanah 02 0010CST 0 0 **Hail (0.75)**

Foard County

15 W Crowell 08 1550CST 0 0 **Hail (0.88)**

Knox County

Goree 08 1603CST 0 0 **Hail (1.75)**

Baylor County

1 E Red Springs 08 1610CST 0 0 0.01K **Thunderstorm Wind**

Severe thunderstorm winds broke 3-inch limbs off of trees.

Wilbarger County

Oklaunion 08 1635CST 0 0 1K **Thunderstorm Wind**

An old cotton gin was picked up and tossed 100 feet onto Highway 287.

Knox County

2 E Gilliland 08 1655CST 0 0 **Hail (1.75)**

Golf ball sized hail covered the ground.

Wilbarger County

12 N Vernon 08 1655CST 0 0 **Hail (1.75)**

Wilbarger County

Fargo 08 1700CST 0 0 **Hail (1.75)**

Knox County

2 E Vera 08 1730CST 0 0 **Hail (2.00)**

Wilbarger County

Harrold 08 1730CST 0 0 25K **Thunderstorm Wind (G61)**

Severe thunderstorm winds estimated at over 70 mph caused widespread damage in and around Harrold. The winds blew an empty cattle trailer into the canopy at a truck stop. The canopy and part of the roof of the building were severely damaged. Light poles and signs were also blown down at the truck stop. Residential roofs were damaged, fences and trees were downed, and windows were broken throughout town. Near the elementary school a garage and a barn were completely demolished, and a second barn was severely damaged. The roof of the elementary school also collapsed. On US Hwy 287 a tractor-trailer was blown off of the road.

Wilbarger County

Harrold 08 1733CST 0 0 **Thunderstorm Wind (G52)**

Wilbarger County

Harrold 08 1734CST 0 0 **Hail (0.75)**

Wichita County

Electra 08 1800CST 0 0 **Hail (1.75)**

Wichita County

Iowa Park 08 1816CST
1830CST 0 0 45K **Thunderstorm Wind (G65)**

Severe thunderstorm winds caused widespread structural and tree damage in and around Iowa Park. The most extensive damage occurred on the south part of town, where a mobile home was completely destroyed on FM 367, a store lost one-quarter of its roof, and windows were blown out of a car dealership. Also in south Iowa Park, an auto repair garage suffered severe damage when its 35-foot awning was torn off and blown across the street and sections of the building's roof were removed. Branches were downed and large trees were toppled across town, including at least one 60-foot tree. Power poles and lines were snapped, leaving residents without power for as long as 13 hours.

Wichita County

Wichita Falls 08 1828CST 0 0 1K **Thunderstorm Wind (G65)**

Winds of around 70 mph downed small trees and destroyed part of the fence at the stadium sports complex on the southwest side of town.

Wilbarger County

Harrold 08 1833CST 0 0 **Hail (0.75)**



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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TEXAS, North Central

Wilbarger County									
Harrold	08	1833CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Wichita County									
Wichita Falls (Ksps)	08	1838CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
measured at the ASOS site									
Archer County									
Archer City	08	1845CST			0	0	0.50K		Thunderstorm Wind
Power poles were blown down in Archer City.									
Wichita County									
Wichita Falls	08	1845CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Wichita County									
4 NW Wichita Falls	08	1845CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Clay County									
Lake Arrowhead	08	1854CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Wichita County									
Wichita Falls (Ksps)	08	1856CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G66)
measured at the ASOS site									
Archer County									
Archer City	08	1900CST			0	0	0.10K		Thunderstorm Wind
An 18-inch diameter tree was blown over by severe thunderstorm winds.									
Clay County									
11 W Henrietta	08	1900CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
at the intersection of FM 2393 and FM 1954									
Clay County									
Lake Arrowhead	08	1900CST 1910CST			0	0			Hail (2.75)
Clay County									
10 W Bluegrove	08	1915CST	0.1	25	0	0	0.75K		Tornado (F0)
A citizen reported a brief tornado on the FM 172 bridge south of Lake Arrowhead. One picnic shelter in a park was destroyed.									
Clay County									
1.5 S Deer Creek	08	1950CST			0	0	0.25K		Thunderstorm Wind
Severe thunderstorm winds blew windows out of a house.									
Clay County									
5 S Deer Creek	08	1955CST	0.1	25	0	0	0.50K		Tornado (F0)
A small tornado, probably a gustnado, blew part of the roof off a barn.									
Clay County									
Joy	08	2000CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Baylor County									
Seymour	08 09	2030CST 0030CST			0	0			Flash Flood
Highway 82 between Benjamin and Seymour was closed due to high water.									
Knox County									
Benjamin	08 09	2030CST 0030CST			0	0			Flash Flood
Highway 82 between Benjamin and Seymour was closed due to high water.									
Archer County									
Archer City	08	2050CST			0	0			Flash Flood
Highway 79 was closed due to high water.									



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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TEXAS, North Central

**Clay County
Countywide**

08	2100CST				0	0			Flash Flood
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The Clay County Sheriff's Office reported roads across most of the county were covered with water, causing numerous accidents and stalled cars. Many roads were closed.

**Clay County
Bluegrove to
2.5 W Bluegrove**

08	2200CST 2300CST				0	0			Flash Flood
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Flash flood waters flowed 4 feet deep over the FM 172 bridge across Deer Creek (about 2.5 miles west of Bluegrove). Several cars became stranded in high water on FM 172 between Bluegrove and Lake Arrowhead, and officials rescued at least 2 people from their flooded cars.

**Wichita County
Wichita Falls**

08	2200CST				0	0	150K		Flash Flood
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Portions of Wichita Falls received up to 5 inches of rain in less than one hour, resulting in widespread flash flooding throughout the city. As many as 100 homes in the Faith Village area and off of Jacksboro Highway in south Wichita Falls reported some sort of flooding. Numerous roads in and around Wichita Falls were closed due to high water, some for over 12 hours. With water up to 6 feet deep, several cars became stranded and were washed away. In one instance an ambulance on its way to rescue a wheelchair-confined man from his flooding house stalled in water that rose to the depth of the ambulance's windshield. (The handicapped man was helped safely from his house by his neighbors.)

**Archer County
Countywide**

08	2230CST				0	0			Flash Flood
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Several highways and streets across the county were covered with high water.

**Clay County
Countywide**

08	2300CST				0	0			Flash Flood
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FM 1954, FM 883, FM 2606, and Highway 172 were closed due to high water.

Summary of events of May 8, 1997:

Severe thunderstorms moved repeatedly over western parts of north Texas during the late afternoon and through the evening of the 8th. During the daylight hours, the storms produced numerous reports of large hail and strong and damaging winds. Two tornadoes were also reported. By the end of the evening, a widespread flash-flood event had evolved, affecting most or all of 5 counties in the area.

The first tornado was reported west of Bluegrove (on the south side of Lake Arrowhead) in Clay County, and the second tornado, probably a gustnado, occurred south of Deer Creek (also in Clay County). Minor damage was reported with each tornado and both were rated F0.

The largest hail also fell near Lake Arrowhead, where baseball-sized hail fell for about 10 minutes. The strongest measured wind speeds reached 76 mph at the Wichita Falls Municipal Airport in Wichita County.

Widespread and severe wind damage occurred in Harrold in Wilbarger County and in Iowa Park in Wichita County. Other more minor damage was reported east of Red Springs in Baylor County, in Oklaunion in Wilbarger County, in Archer City in Archer County, and south of Deer Creek in Clay County.

Most of Clay and Archer Counties were affected by flash flooding. Portions of Wichita Falls in Wichita County also suffered from major flash flooding, including flooding of homes. More isolated incidents of flash flooding occurred near Benjamin in Knox County and near Seymour in Baylor County.

See preceding individual Storm Data entries for further details and additional reports.

**Wichita County
3 NW Burkburnett**

30	0220CST				0	0			Hail (0.75)
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**Wichita County
Wichita Falls**

30	0256CST				0	0			Hail (0.75)
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**Wichita County
Wichita Falls**

30	0300CST				0	0	0.50K		Thunderstorm Wind
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A small metal shed was blown about 75 feet and limbs were blown down.



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

TEXAS, North Central

Wichita County									
Wichita Falls to Burkburnett	30	0320CST			0	0			Flash Flood
Widespread street flooding was reported from Wichita Falls to Burkburnett.									
Archer County									
Scotland	30	0338CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Archer County									
Scotland	30	0340CST			0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind
A roof was blown off a two-story structure and one large tree was downed.									
Clay County									
9 WSW Joy	30	0400CST			0	0			Flash Flood
Up to eight inches of water covered some of the roads.									
Clay County									
10 W Joy	30	0400CST 0410CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Clay County									
Bellevue	30	0439CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)

Summary of events of May 30, 1997:

Early morning thunderstorms moved across Clay, Archer, and Wichita Counties, producing hail as large as quarters, damaging thunderstorm winds, and flash flooding. The one-inch hail fell in Scotland in Archer County and in Bellevue in Clay County. Wind damage occurred in Wichita Falls in Wichita County and in Scotland (in Archer County). Isolated flash flooding was reported in Wichita County from Wichita Falls to Burkburnett and west-southwest of Joy in Clay County.

See preceding individual Storm Data entries for further details and additional reports.