

January 7th, 2008

McHenry County, IL

I start my ThunderBolt as I sit at my desk in Johnsburg, IL. It's approx 830AM on Monday the 7th. My unit, a Storm Chaser series Model TB-SC1 is almost brand new and has been in use for approximately 6 months.

At about 900AM I begin to get messages, hear alarms, and notice the light has gone from Green to Red. I walk over to see what is happening. ThunderBolt tells me that Storms are located 60 miles off and ETA is over 45 minutes. Very strange for the month of January in Illinois, but the unseasonable weather will undoubtedly cause some adverse conditions to manifest themselves. Updates keep coming. The storms are now due in 45 minutes and the distance is now less than 40 miles.

I notice a screen I have never seen before come up on the units LCD display. It says " Caution!".

I continue to watch and another previously unseen screen appears, " Storm developing ". I wonder out loud what could cause this, and another priorly unseen screen appears, " 20 miles or less". Then it hits me, the Storm cell is actually forming at this distance and ThunderBolt is giving me this information in the midst of tracking other storms which are considerably farther away.

I next noticed a deluge of Multiple cells and squall lines for the next few hours. None came closer than 20 miles. Most of them stayed out at the 50 mile plus marker. I knew from experience, this was Tornado weather, and was on high alert the rest of the day.

ThunderBolt tracked all the cells that moved through the area today. Upon completion of this day at the office, I tuned into the news and was not surprised to learn that Tornadoes had touched down a little more than 20 miles from my location. Severe winds had devastated certain areas completely.

Southern Wisconsin, approx 50-60 miles from my location was another victim of a tornado.

ThunderBolt did its Job 100%+. I did not have to watch the news, log on to a weather site, use my cellphone, or weather radio. I experienced total satisfaction with the units performance.

J Kuesis



This is the Tornado 20+miles west of my location. Damage associated with this band of storms.



This is a different Tornado approx 28 miles N/West.



This funnel cloud is about 35 miles west-northwest from my location.



The above pictures represent Storms and storm damage associated with the Storms that passed through today.

All Pictures were taken by Aaron Brackett from the NBC5 news site.