

A Look at Severe Weather Operations from Inside the National Weather Service.

It's 6:24pm and the National Weather Service (NWS) in Lincoln has just issued a tornado warning for McLean County until 7:30pm. The warning includes the cities of Shirley, Bloomington, Normal, Towanda, and Lexington. 12 minutes later, a tornado touches down in the south part of Bloomington, just north of the intersection of I-74 and Rte 51. The tornado moves across the southeast part of the city damaging many businesses and homes, including two buildings at State Farm.

Have you ever wondered what occurs behind the doors of the NWS during severe weather? Have you ever wondered what goes on inside the head of a warning operator? Have you ever wondered what ingredients go into putting out a warning? Tonight we will step into the world of severe weather operations and see what goes on inside one NWS office. We'll also look at some of the steps and ingredients that go into a warning. We'll even try to get an idea of the thought process that occurs inside the mind of a warning operator; all to answer the question; "How did they do that?"