
OUTSTANDING STORMS OF THE MONTH

1. F4 TORNADO STRIKES EASTERN SOUTH CAROLINA

On November 7, a continental air mass moved into the southeast U.S. and destabilized the existing maritime air mass. The interaction of these two air masses produced violent weather in the form of severe thunderstorms which spawned nearly two dozen tornadoes, including the F4 tornado (winds 200-260 mph), as defined by the Fujita Tornado Scale, in Marion. The damage from the tornadoes and thunderstorm straight-line-winds was widespread throughout 7 counties in northeast South Carolina. Trees were downed by the high winds, many of which also brought down power lines and poles. There was a total of \$3 million dollars damage to over 100 homes and businesses. Seventeen people were injured as a result of this severe weather outbreak.



The F4 tornado touched down near the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church (left) in Marion around 17:05 EST and completely destroyed the mostly brick structure. The church bell was found 400 yards east. The church was empty at the time, but the choir was scheduled to practice 25 minutes later. The church was declared a total loss but has since been rebuilt by its congregation.

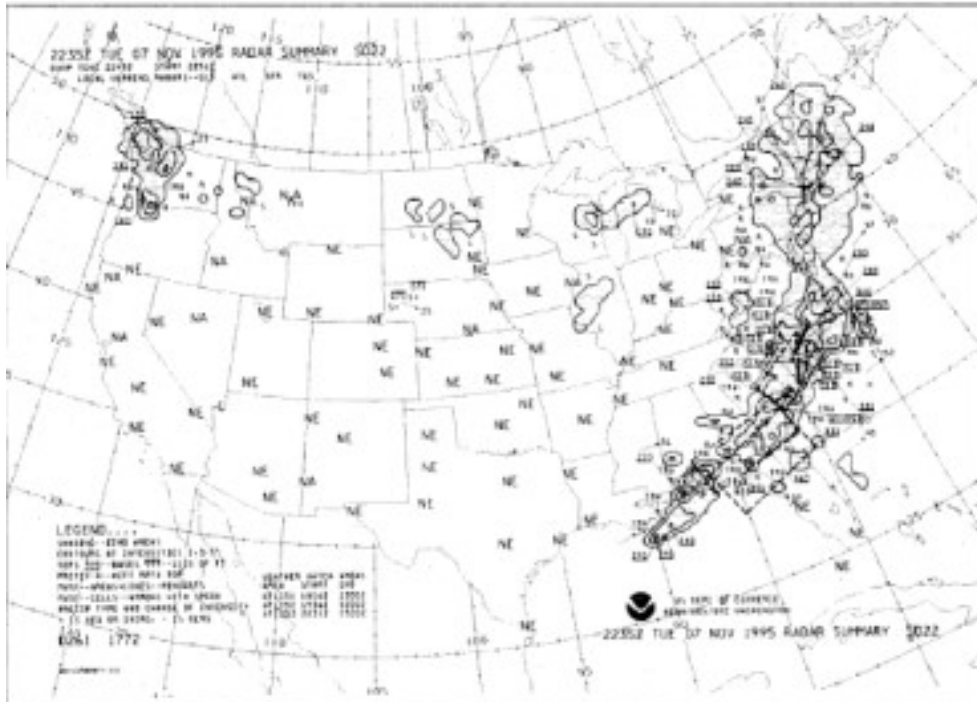
(Photos courtesy of Tom Matheson, WCM, NWSO, Wilmington, NC.)

Below: Two similar views of the church after the tornado. Notice the brick structure still standing. The photo on the left shows debris in the foreground and the photo on the right shows a wider view of the parking lot after some cleanup.



(Photos courtesy of Tom Matheson, WCM, NWSO, Wilmington, NC.)

2235Z (1735 EST) Tuesday, 07 November 1995



Left: The radar summary chart shows the maximum echo tops in the Marion area were estimated at 35,000 feet. The thunderstorm cells were moving rapidly to the northeast at 60 mph. (Maps and charts courtesy of NCDC, Asheville, N.C.)

Below: An enlarged portion of the surface weather chart indicated the approaching cold front to the northwest and the warm front in place over the southeast. Note the 20°F difference in temperature and 14°F difference in the dewpoint between Charlotte, NC. and Myrtle Beach, SC.

2100Z (1600 EST) Tuesday, 07 November 1995

