



The MWN Newsletter

*All the Weather You Need for
Memphis and the Mid-South*

WELCOME

Welcome to the fourth edition of **The MWN Newsletter!** 2008 has started off in busy fashion for weather enthusiasts with two severe weather episodes and a couple of winter weather events as well! It certainly makes for exciting times, though most Mid-Southerners are probably wishing it would be a little more boring! Let's review the most recent, and devastating, event – the tornadic storms from this past Tuesday.

FEBRUARY 5, 2008 – A DAY TO REMEMBER

The right conditions came together to produce a very active afternoon and evening on Tuesday, February 5. The Storm Prediction Center and Memphis NWS office recognized these conditions and placed the region in a "high" risk for severe weather early in the morning. A tornado watch was issued by mid-afternoon and storms developed around 4pm. Before 5:00pm, the first tornado was menacing NE Shelby County with damage reported in Arlington. About 30 minutes later, another supercell thunderstorm was rolling out of DeSoto County into Shelby County, having produced widespread destruction in Southaven. This storm continued its destructive nature in the airport area and then moved quickly into Hickory Hill, where it killed 3 and caused massive damage around the Hickory Ridge Mall. This storm is the same one that also caused major destruction at Union University in Jackson, TN about an hour later.

While other supercells spawned tornadic activity across other parts of the Mid-South, a squall line was sweeping through Arkansas and crossed the river about 10pm. Strong straight-line wind accompanied the line, but its passage was welcome, as it signaled the end to the severe weather threat, at least for that evening. In the end, two EF-2 tornadoes had struck Shelby County and an EF-4 nearly wiped Union University off the map. Kudos to the Memphis NWS office which, despite having to evacuate themselves for a short time, managed to produce an average 15-minute lead time on their warnings, giving Mid-Southerners those few extra minutes to take the necessary precautions to protect their lives.

WEATHER FACT: The Storm Prediction Center has a mission to provide timely and accurate forecasts and watches for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes over the contiguous United States and monitor heavy rain, heavy snow, and fire weather events.

Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale Tornado Strength based on Observed Damage

EF #	3-Second Gust
EF-0	65-85 mph
EF-1	86-110 mph
EF-2	111-135 mph
EF-3	136-165 mph
EF-4	166-200 mph
EF-5	200+ mph

To see pictures I took of storm damage in southern Shelby County, visit this site:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/memwxnet/MemphisTornadoDamage>

6 MORE WEEKS OF WINTER...

Groundhog's Day has come and gone and, if you believe in lore, the fact that Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow means six more weeks of winter. Hard to believe when we nearly touched 80 degrees before the storms moved in on the 5th, huh? Don't let your guard down because of the warmer weather, though. Winter precipitation is still possible in the month of February in Memphis.

THANK YOU!

I hope you have enjoyed receiving this edition of **The MWN Newsletter**, which is sent via e-mail to subscribers, as well as being posted at MemphisWeather.Net. Feel free to pass it on to your friends, family, and colleagues, giving them an opportunity to receive this valuable information too!

Don't forget to visit <http://www.MemphisWeather.Net> soon and often! You are the reason that the site exists and I appreciate *each and every* visit.

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