

Mandy Thalhuber (00:00):

You know, it, it really was, it, it started out as mainly a, a wind event, a non thunderstorm wind event. And this low pressure system in a matter of six hours came from the four corners region of the United States and just rocketed north east towards the great lakes region very quickly. And these storms, uh, developed very quickly and also escalated very quickly. I mean, they started out in Eastern Nebraska about the three, four o'clock hour. And in a matter of not even three hours, it managed to it's way into our neck of the woods. And along the entire way, just kind of wreaking havoc, really. I mean, large, uh, large reports of multiple tornadoes in Iowa, large wind reports as well. And then as we get, you know, closer to our neck of the woods, I mean, it still had some power in it. I mean, we had some observed, uh, wind reports, um, near the area. We had a few non thunderstorm related reports of the wind gust, and then we also had some thunderstorm related reports of wind gust. Um, how, how can you,

James Rabe (01:16):

How can you tell the difference between the two? What, what, what makes, what marks that difference?

Mandy Thalhuber (01:20):

Um, basically the time that it happened. Oh, okay. So yeah, so basically like, um, one of the non thunderstorm wind gusts that happened near the Rochester airport was 77 miles per hour. Well, that was at 11 o'clock at night mm-hmm <affirmative>. And so we, we know that that was non thunderstorm related because the bulk of the storms had already pushed through, you know, by six 30 to seven 30, they moved through very, but then, um, we had a thunderstorm, a wind gust of 78 miles per hour reported at the Rochester airport. And that was at 7 45 when that line, um, really came through. And so we've had, again, just wind wind was the primary concern, and we knew it was going to be, um, with this system. It was a, his historic, um, event for meteorologists too, never before have we, um, a, seen, uh, a moderate, severe weather threat from the storm prediction center this far north, um, for this late in the year. And if the reports come back today from the national weather, us of confirmed tornadoes in, uh, far Bo and Freeborn county, this will be the only tornado to have happened in the month of December, but we're still waiting for, um, the survey to come out. The damage survey team is already on their way down to the far Bo and Freeborn counties to verify that, uh, that damage indeed was due to a tornado and not just the straight line winds and

James Rabe (02:50):

That's, and that's, uh, a thing that happens with every, um, I don't know how to say it even but possible tornado. It has to be kind of a, goes through an approval process to be called a tornado.

Mandy Thalhuber (03:01):

Absolutely. 100%. Yep. It can't just, uh, it can't just come from a picture on social media or somebody calling it in. It has to be confirmed by a specialized team through the national weather service that will go and, uh, survey damage survey, um, you know, patterns, uh, with blown down trees. Um, it did the, did roof come off. And so there's a, there's a criteria that they have to go on, but yeah, again, if they confirm that that will be a tornado that has occurred in Minnesota, we've never had one in the month of December.

James Rabe (03:37):

I, I know that, uh, a lot, lot of people were a little worried that this might turn into the kind of storm Kentucky saw and Indiana saw. Was there any ever any chance that could happen?

Mandy Thalhuber ([03:47](#)):

No, no, no, no, no. So what happened in Kentucky was, um, it, all of the storms are, they generally have the same ingredients. So when you're baking a cake, we have the same ingredient that we have to follow or else the cake doesn't turn out or the storms don't turn out. But however, every scenario is a little bit different. Now, the storm system that, that we had, the tornadoes that get produced from this type of storm system are, it's a very, it's a fancy, I don't even like to bring it up. It's like, uh, it's like a quasi linear convective. So it's yeah. It's it's oh my gosh. That's it's, it's, it's an ugly word. Let me tell you right now, it is an ugly word that I just don't even want to repeat and put in your mouth. Okay. But essentially <laugh>, it sounds like

James Rabe ([04:34](#)):

A fun word to me, even though it's an awful thing.

Mandy Thalhuber ([04:37](#)):

It was it's, you know, it scars me for life. Okay. I'm the one that study this. Okay. It is very scaring, but basically the type of tornadoes that come out of the storm system that we saw yesterday are incredibly short lived. They tend to not be as intense. So we're not getting the, the EF twos, the EF threes, the, the very large tornadoes. These are very quick to develop. They're very quick to dissipate. And sometimes if you're looking at radar, sometimes you can even, you can even miss it. We actually had, um, an event like this happen a couple months ago in Eastern, South Dakota, um, Ray and I were working and all of a sudden, boom, they issue tornado warnings. And we're like, what? We're looking at radar. We're not seeing anything that was this type of a system where these tornadoes form so quickly, and then they dissipate and you, you can barely see 'em on radar. So that was the type of situation that we had yesterday. But no, that the, the Kentucky, no, that was, those were absolutely devastating and very large tornadoes.

James Rabe ([05:41](#)):

I don't think I've ever such a fast storm. And that kinda saved us didn't it from any, any more trouble?

Mandy Thalhuber ([05:46](#)):

Yeah. I mean, that was, yes. That was the, the good thing about this system is we knew that it was going to be an incredibly quick moving system. So there wasn't going to be prolonged storm damage. But unfortunately we also had the damage from just the winds in itself that were just prevalent throughout the evening, overnight hours. So we have the damage from that, but no, this was a very, very fast moving system. Again, it, it traveled from the Fort corners up to our neck of the woods in span of, you know, five, six hours. So there's sometimes low pressure systems that take days to, to get to their destination. So it was just, again, an intense, uh, low pressure system.

James Rabe ([06:26](#)):

Is there any part of the story that really stands out to you beyond just the fact that it's such an unusual thing to happen in December? It's

Mandy Thalhuber ([06:33](#)):

Mostly just looking at the calendar and seeing the setup realizing, okay. It's, mid-December, we've had, uh, Dew points in the fifties and sixties. That to me yesterday just kind of blew my mind to just see those high Dew points, uh, coming in. And then, well,

James Rabe ([06:51](#)):

It felt like April, it literally felt like April.

Mandy Thalhuber ([06:54](#)):

Oh my gosh, my husband was making fun of me because last night I, I, I come outside. I'm like, you know what? It smells like sprain and summer. Yes. <laugh> I,

James Rabe ([07:03](#)):

I smell like it. I was talking to listeners on a Facebook live and one lady said, this pressure, holy smokes. My hip is killing me. This is gonna be a bad storm. Another said, I got migraines. I know a storm is coming. Oh,

Mandy Thalhuber ([07:15](#)):

Absolutely. And animals, I was really shocked. Can tell too. I, the, I could tell at my house that something was coming just from my birds. Right. Because my birds were going crazy. They were like eating earlier than normal and just like stocking up. But yeah, it was, it's a very, I mean, the pressure, the low pressure center right now is actually, uh, just, uh, by north, uh, uh, the superior and it's, it's under 980 milli bars. That's, that's low, that's a low, low pressure system. So yes, it was an intense system just based upon the pressure itself, but oh yeah. You can tell by hips, you can tell by animals. Absolutely. That was actually proven true that the, uh, the pressure has, uh, a correlation with people's body parts. There was like a study in Europe. I, her, uh, was listening to a podcast on it. Well, of course. And it was very, yes, it was very fascinating to, to hear them actually yeah. Do a huge research on it. So that has been proven <laugh> and,

James Rabe ([08:10](#)):

And honestly, it doesn't surprise me because why wouldn't it affect us? I mean, the atmosphere has a great deal to do with how we do and what we do. Mm-hmm <affirmative>

Mandy Thalhuber ([08:17](#)):

Absolutely. I, I fully believe that. And yeah, yesterday was just unbelievable for the time of the year that it was and what had happened and my goodness, the wins, whether they were thunderstorm related or not, those, those wins were just incredible.

James Rabe ([08:33](#)):

Uh, Mandy, tha hubber thank you so much for spending time with us today. I really appreciate it. You're welcome. Thank you. Take care, everybody.