

Tornadoes Swarm. Trains Safe.

AccuWeather Keeps Trains Out of Harm's Way

A rash of violent tornadoes raked northwest Iowa the evening of Saturday, April 9, 2011. The town of Mapleton suffered extensive damage. According to Mayor Fred Standa, "about sixty percent of the town was flattened. About the only thing left standing was the community center."

As word spread of the disaster in Mapleton, ambulances and rescuers rushed to assist. Shortly after 9pm, with no power in the town, the darkness in Mapleton was pierced by lightning from a new thunderstorm. That second thunderstorm began to exhibit signs of rotation.

Eighteen miles southeast of Mapleton, the Canadian National (CN) Railroad's track stretches across the Iowa prairie. CN relies on precision SkyGuard® storm warnings from AccuWeather Enterprise Solutions to keep its trains out of harm's way. While others were focused on the disaster in Mapleton, AccuWeather's meteorologists swung into action for CN.

The AccuWeather Extreme Weather Center issued a tornado warning for the CN's track near Alta, IA at 9:29pm, valid from 9:35 until 10:15pm. Precision warnings like these allow railroads to keep their trains out of harm's way. No train was derailed that Saturday night. The governmental warning for the Alta tornado was not issued until 9:46pm – when the tornado was crossing the track. If a train had been in the area, a major incident would likely have occurred.

That's why North America's leading companies rely on AccuWeather Enterprise Solutions to protect their people, assets, and profits. Call AccuWeather today. After all, the next storm may already be on the way.



Photo of Mapleton, Iowa tornado April 9, 2011.
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