# Piner Tornado

## The Storms

For the first time ever, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued a Tornado Emergency for the area - not once, but twice. A Tornado Emergency is issued when a large, confirmed tornado threatens a highly populated area.

Three major tornadoes were confirmed in the event. The last time this happened locally on the same day was on April 3, 1974.

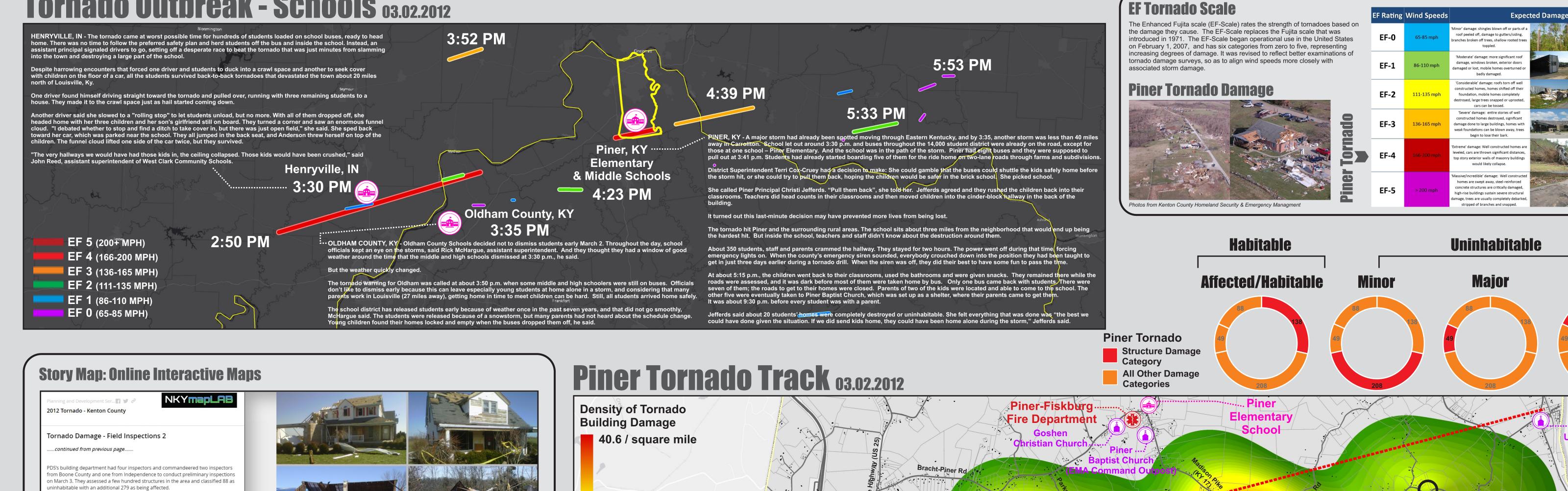
March 2, 2012 now stands as the deadliest severe weather day in the Tri-State (OH, KY, IN) since official NWS records began in 1950.

The Piner Tornado was initially ruled an EF 3. After further storm damage inspection, a portion of the tornado track was ruled an EF 4.

#### **Tornado Outbreak - Kentucky** 03.02.2012



#### Tornado Outbreak - Schools 03.02.2012



Steve Hensley, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in Kenton County stated, "The knowledge and expertise of these individuals was very valuable, as we conducted structural inspections and damage assessments".

nspectors returned to Piner later that week and tagged each structure according to one of three categories: habitable, limited entry, or uninhabitable. During immediate post-recovery efforts, PDS also assigned one of its administrative assistants to address questions from storm victims. The building department is now pursuing more in-depth inspections on an as-needed basis.

"Again I want to commend the PDS for the assistance they have and continue to ovide to the residents of Kenton County. In my eyes, this agency and its staf

2.5 / square mile

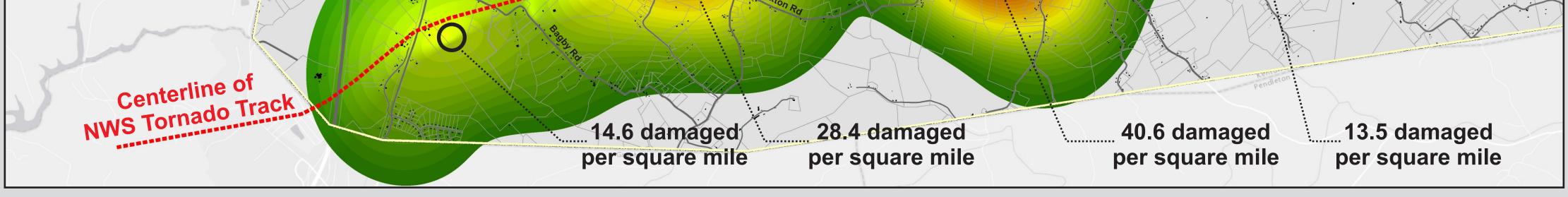
embers have performed over and beyond the call of duty throughout this event," lensley stated

PDS waived all building and HVAC permit and inspection fees, as well as all electrical permits until June 4, 2012. Electrical inspections will still need to be paid to IBI



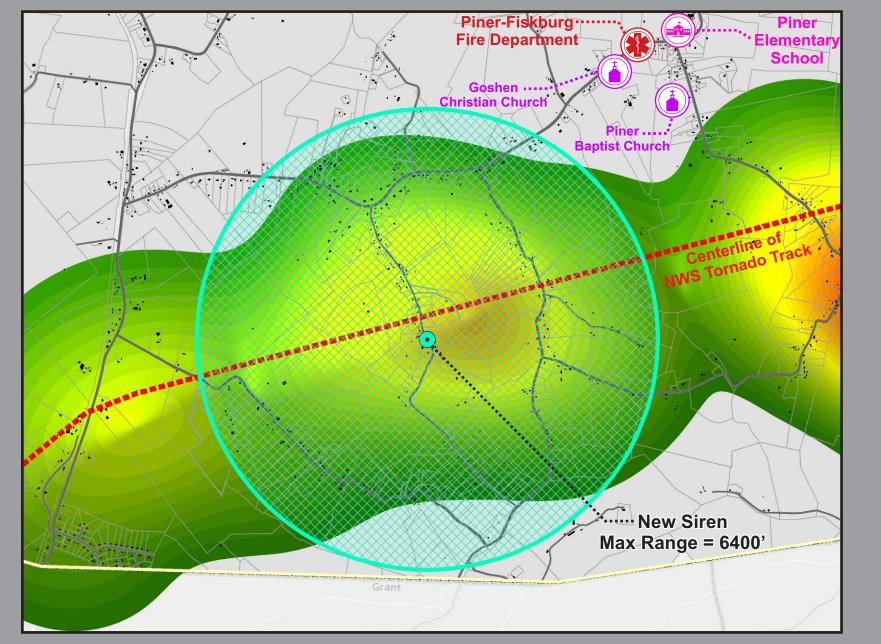
**PDS Building Inspection Photo** 

On March 2, 2012 the Kenton County communities of Piner, Fiskburg, and Morning View were hit hard by one of the worst tornado outbreaks in Kentucky history. These small, unincorporated towns were left with significant damage that would take years to rebuild. Although the destruction was significant, there were several positive outcomes of the recovery efforts, several of which were assisted by the use of GIS. More information can be found at: <u>linkgis.org</u>

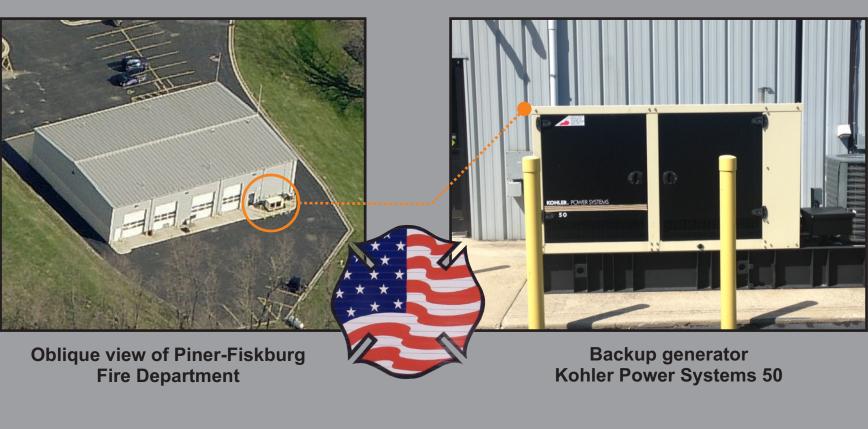


# **Recovery Outcomes**

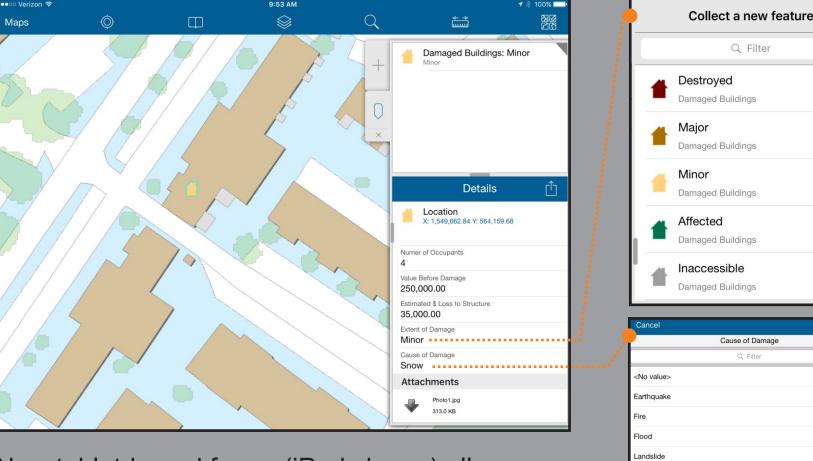
### **GIS Analysis for new Storm Warning Siren Location**



## **Piner-Fiskburg Fire Department DHS Grant**



#### **Tablet GIS-based Damage Assessment Forms**



New tablet-based forms (iPad shown) allow

#### "Emergency services make up an important part of an area's community facilities. Police, fire, and **emergency dispatch coverage** could mean the difference between life and death for those in need of the respective service. Looking for ways to provide more efficient and effective emergency response services would provide benefits to jurisdictions, particularly those with limited capital resources, allowing them to invest in other improvements. -Direction 2030: Community Facilities Element

Injuries

**Fatalities** 

Destroyed

ted Method

Church

Damages

March 2nd 2012

Piner Tornado

All Other Tornados



#### **Goals and Objectives**

**N** Natural Systems **C** Community Identity **H** Health **HC** Healthy Communities Primary Goal **E** Economy **M** Mobility **G** Governance Secondary Goal

> How Does This Topic Apply to Direction 2030?

**G** Encourage cooperative governance.

G Continue to encourage the sharing of technical tools and resources effectively reducing the cost of the system.

E Identify opportunities for effective sharing of services.

**Recommendation:** 

GIS was used to analyze the coverage of the storm warning siren network. Gaps were identified and a viewshed analysis was used to maximize the site selection for a new storm warning siren.



New Warning Siren: Federal 2001 (model) Located on Carlisle Road, Kenton County.

**Dedication Monument: Siren funding** provided by Duke Energy, Owen Electric, **Rotary Club of Kenton County.** 

Collectively the Kenton County Rotary Club, Duke Energy, and Owen Electric donated \$ 37,000 for additional safety equipment. Duke Energy donated \$15,000, Owen Electric donated \$5,000 and in-kind services, and the Kenton County Rotary club donated \$17,000.

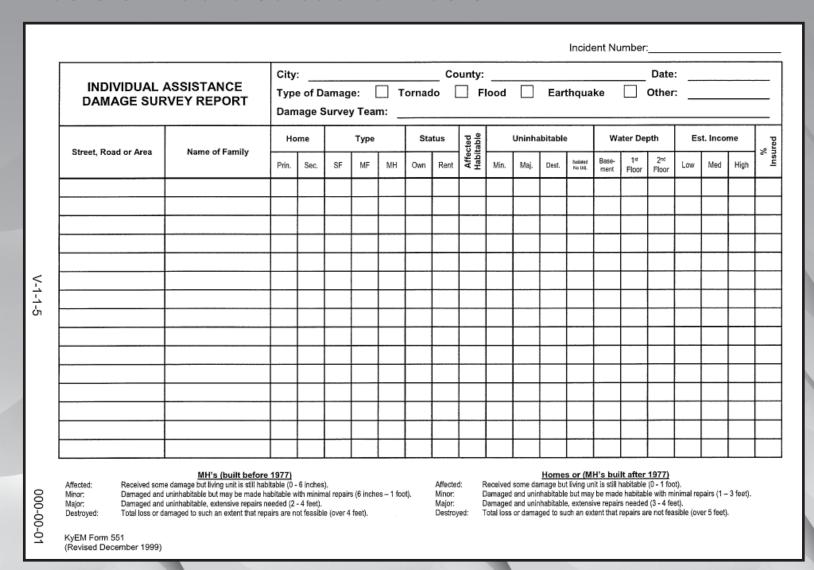
**Brush Unit 1268** Engine 1251 and Tanker 1270 Squad 1264

With the help of Steve Hensley at Kenton County Homeland Security and **Emergency Management and Judge-Executive Steve Arlinghaus of** Kenton County Fiscal Court, the Piner-Fiskburg Fire Department submitted a grant application through the Kentucky Department of Homeland Security.

The purpose of the grant was to purchase a backup generator for the Piner-Fiskburg Fire Department - a need that was identified during the March 2nd response. The application was successful and the fire department was awarded \$44,000 to purchase the generator.

The generator was installed inJanuary of 2013. It is currently fully operational and capable of sustaining the fire department at 100% power during prolonged power outage periods.

first responders to record field damage without the need to transfer the information from paper forms to spreadsheets. The digital forms are GIS-based and use ArcGIS Online and Collector for ArcGIS.



Existing KY Emergency Management damage assessment form, last updated 1999.

Q Filter

"Ensure adequate emergency response services are provided to protect the public health, safety, and welfare."

-Direction 2030: Community Facilities element

