

# The Storms

 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.

**EF 5 Storm Fatalities**

**EF 4 Storm Fatalities**

**EF 3 Storm Fatalities**

**EF 2 Storm Fatalities**

**EF 5 (200+ MPH)**

**EF 4 (166-200 MPH)**

**EF 3 (136-165 MPH)**

**EF 2 (111-135 MPH)**

**EF 1 (86-110 MPH)**

**EF 0 (65-85 MPH)**

**HENRYVILLE, IN** - The tornado came at worst possible time for hundreds of students loaded on school buses, ready to head home. There was no time to follow the preferred safety plan and have students off the bus and inside the school. Instead, an assistant principal signaled drivers to go, setting off a desperate race to beat the tornado that was just minutes from slamming into the town and destroying a large part of the school.

Despite harrowing encounters that forced one driver and students to duck into a crawl space and another to seek cover with children on the floor of a car, all the students survived back-to-back tornadoes that devastated the town about 20 miles north of Louisville, Ky.

One driver found himself driving straight toward the tornado and pulled over, running with three remaining students to a house. They made it to the crawl space just as hail started coming down.

Another driver said she saw a "rolling stop" to let students unload, but no more. With all of them dropped off, she headed home with her three-year-old son's girlfriend sitting on board. They turned a corner and saw an enormous funnel cloud. "I debated whether to stop and find a ditch to take cover in, but there was just open field," she said. She sped back toward her house where she parked near the back school. They all jumped to the back seat, and Anderson threw herself on top of the children. The funnel cloud lifted one side of the car twice, but they survived.

"The very hallways we would have had those kids in, the ceiling collapsing. Those kids would have been crushed," said John Reed, assistant superintendent of West Clark Community Schools.

**Henryville, IN**

**Piner, KY  
Elementary  
& Middle Schools**

**Oldham County, KY**

**EF 5 (200+ MPH)**  
**EF 4 (166-200 MPH)**  
**EF 3 (136-165 MPH)**  
**EF 2 (111-135 MPH)**  
**EF 1 (86-110 MPH)**  
**EF 0 (65-85 MPH)**

**3:52 PM**  
**4:39 PM**  
**5:33 PM**  
**5:53 PM**  
**6:30 PM**  
**7:30 PM**  
**8:30 PM**  
**9:30 PM**  
**10:30 PM**  
**11:30 PM**  
**12:30 AM**

**OLDHAM COUNTY, KY** - Oldham County Schools decided not to dismiss students early March 2. Throughout the day, school buses were full. But inside the school, teachers and staff didn't know about the destruction around them.

About 350 students and parents crammed the hallway. They stayed for two hours. The power went off during that time, forcing emergency lights on. When the county's emergency siren sounded, everyone crowded down into the position they had been taught to get to just three days earlier during a tornado drill. When the siren was off, they did their best to have some fun to pass the time.

At about 5:15 p.m., the children went back to their classrooms, used the bathrooms and were given snacks. They remained there while the roads were assessed, and it was dark before most of them were taken home by bus. Only one bus came back with students. There were seven of them: the trucks to get to their homes were delayed. Parents of two of the kids were located and able to come to the school. The other five were eventually taken to Piner Baptist Church, which was set up as a shelter, where their parents came to get them.

It was about 9:30 p.m. before every student was with a parent.

Jefferts said about 20 students' homes were completely destroyed or uninhabitable. She felt everything that was done was "the best we could have done given the situation. If I did send kids home, they could have been home alone during the storm," Jefferts said.

Planning and Development Dept.

## 2012 Tornado - Kenton County

### Tornado Damage - Field Inspections 2

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POD's building department had four inspectors and commandeered two inspectors from Boone County and one from Independence to conduct preliminary inspections on March 3. They assessed a few hundred structures in the area and classified BS as attributable with an additional 20% as being affected.

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

Inspectors returned to Piner later that week and tagged each structure according to one of three categories: habitable, limited, or uninhabitable. During immediate post-recovery efforts, POD 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 POD for the assistance they have and continue to provide to the residents of Kenton County. In my view, this agency and its staff members have performed over and beyond the call of duty throughout this event," Hensley stated.

POD saved all building and HVAC permit inspection fees, as well as all other electrical permits until June 4, 2012. Electrical inspectors will still need to be paid to IB.

# Piner Tornado

2012

POD Building Inspection Photo

Density of Tornado Building Damage

40.6 / square mile

2.5 / square mile

Centerline of NWS Tornado Track

14.6 damaged per square mile

28.4 damaged per square mile

40.6 damaged per square mile

13.5 damaged per square mile

Piner-Fiskburg Fire Department

Goshen Christian Church

Piner Baptist Church (EMM Command Outpost)

Piner Elementary School

Morningview United Methodist Church

Wilmington Baptist Church

Brach-Piner Rd

Quail Rd

Madison Pike (Rt 7)

Quail Cove Rd

Plaxton Rd

State Highway (US 25)

75

# Recovery Outcomes

This map shows the service area of the Piner-Fiskburg Fire Department, which is highlighted by a large cyan circle. A red dashed line indicates the centerline of the March 2011 Tornado Track, passing through the service area. Key locations marked include the Piner-Fiskburg Fire Department, Goshen Christian Church, Piner Baptist Church, and Piner Elementary School. A legend at the bottom right indicates that the dashed line represents the centerline of the March 2011 Tornado Track and that the cyan circle represents the New Siren with a Max Range of 6400 feet.

**Service Above Self**

**Duke Energy**

**Owen Electric**

**Rotary Club of Kenton County**

The Siren Tower Presented by the Cities of Siren and Kenton County, Kentucky  
 The American Wind Energy Association  
 The Kentucky Wind Energy Association  
 The Kentucky Wind Energy Institute  
 The Kentucky Wind Energy Institute  
 The Kentucky Wind Energy Institute

Oblique view of Piner-Fiskburg Fire Department

Backup generator Kohler Power Systems 50

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“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*

**-Direction 2030: Community Facilities Element**

**Your Voice. Your Choice.**

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

**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:**

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

-Direction 2030: Community Facilities element

## March 2016 Volume 2: Map 3

EF 5 (200+ MPH)  
EF 4 (166-200 MPH)  
EF 3 (136-165 MPH)  
EF 2 (111-135 MPH)  
EF 1 (86-110 MPH)  
EF 0 (65-85 MPH)

**Building Damage**  
40.6 / square mile  
2.5 / square mile

- 11 EF 4 Storm Fatalities
- 10 EF 3 Storm Fatalities
- 6 EF 2 Storm Fatalities

[www.direction2030.org](http://www.direction2030.org)  
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