



# Are You Really Prepared?

## Annual Life Assessment of the Eastern Valley Ice Storm 2000-2001 2769,000 power outages

Patrick J. Spoden, with  
Daniel Spaeth, Sh...

Tree damage in  
It was an intere  
ways...

**Tree damage in Eastern KY: 3.5 million cubic yds**  
**\$185-231M damage at least 36 deaths in KY**  
**Plus 100 deaths in SW Indiana**



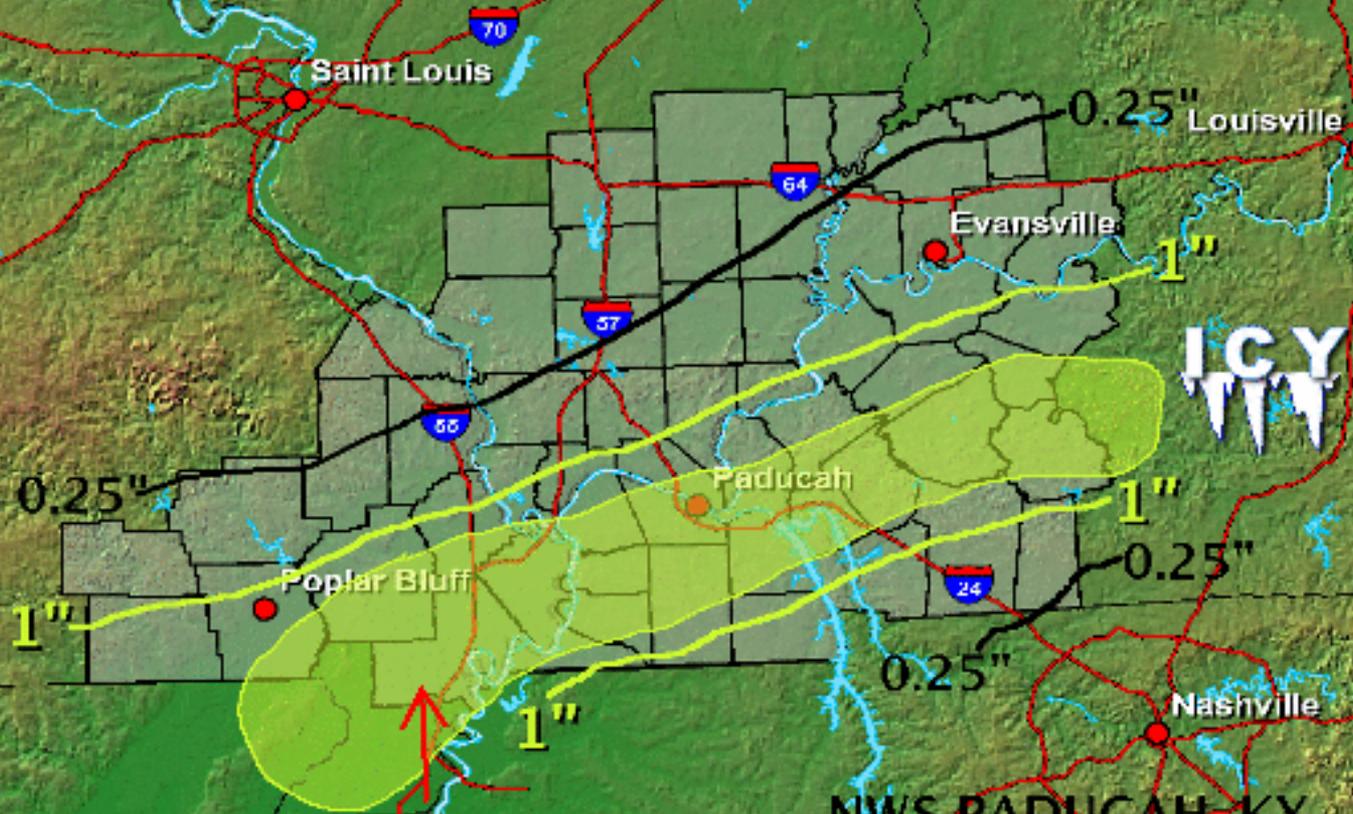
# Do We Walk The Talk?

- HWO – Several days ahead of time
- Special PNS on preparation
- Media/EM Conference Call
- News Conference
- Still – impact even worse than expected

The views expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the National Weather Service

# HISTORIC ICE STORM OF 2009

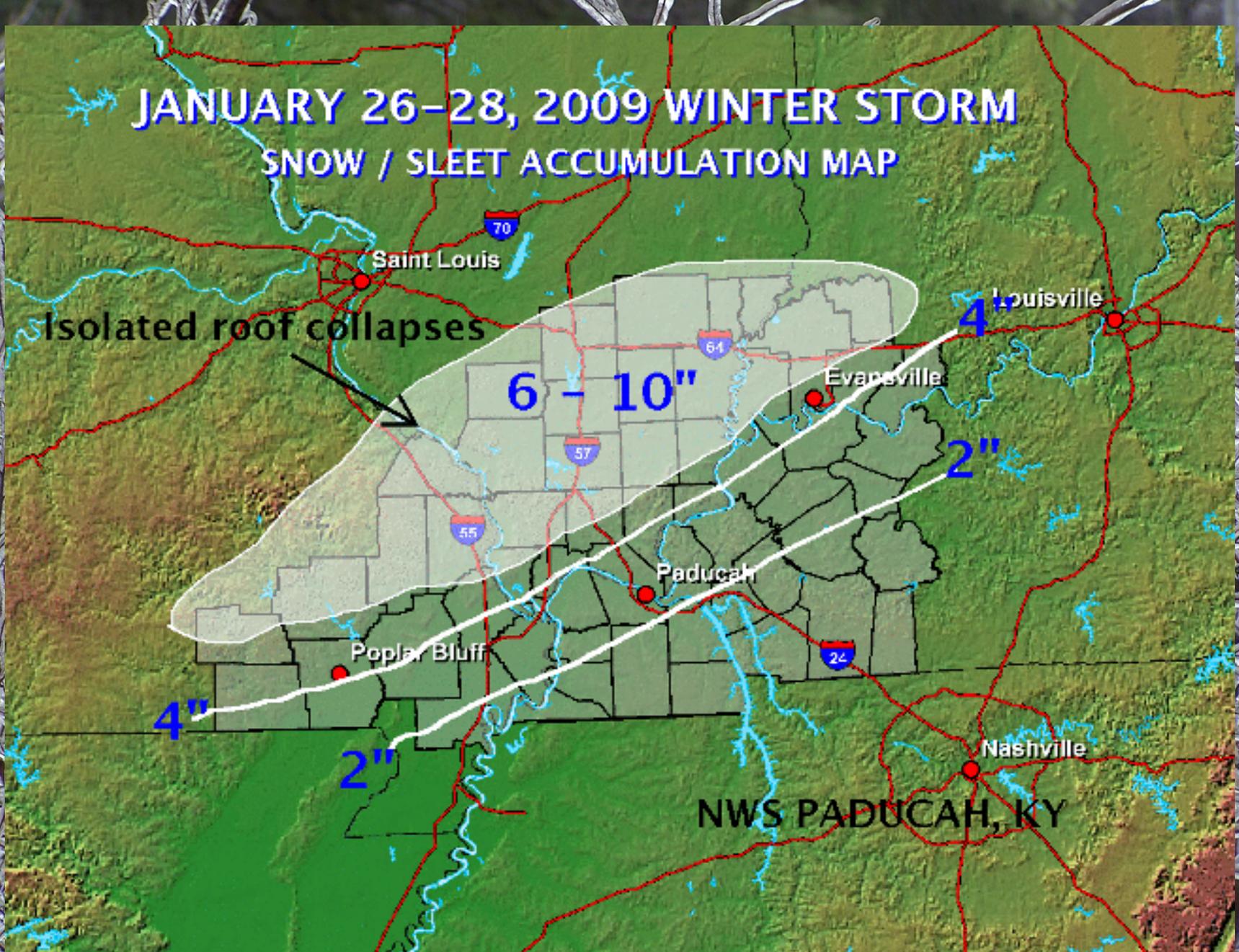
JANUARY 26-28



**Locally 1.5 to 2"  
Catastrophic icing**

NWS PADUCAH, KY

# JANUARY 26-28, 2009 WINTER STORM SNOW / SLEET ACCUMULATION MAP



Isolated roof collapses

6 - 10"

4"

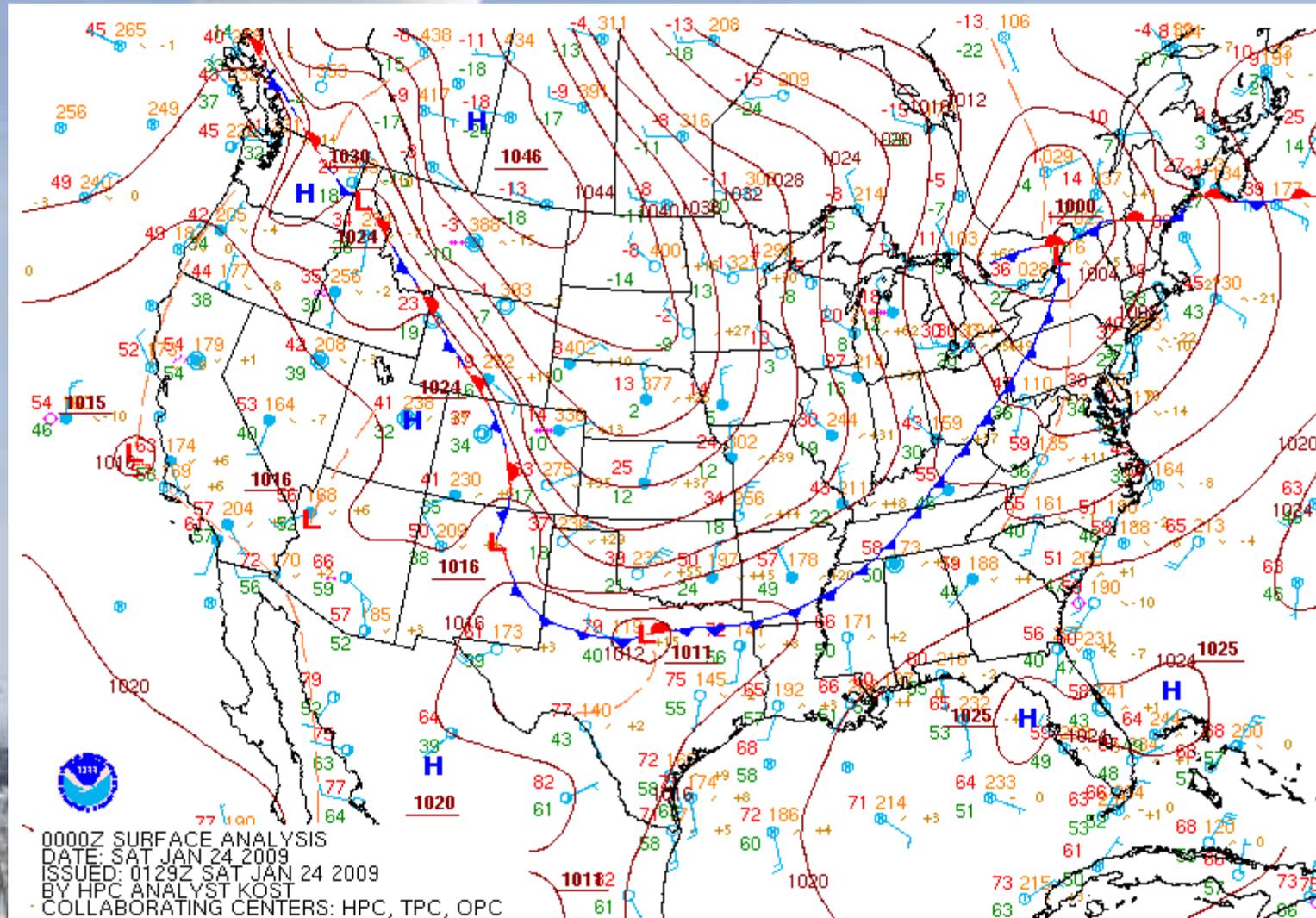
2"

4"

2"

NWS PADUCAH, KY

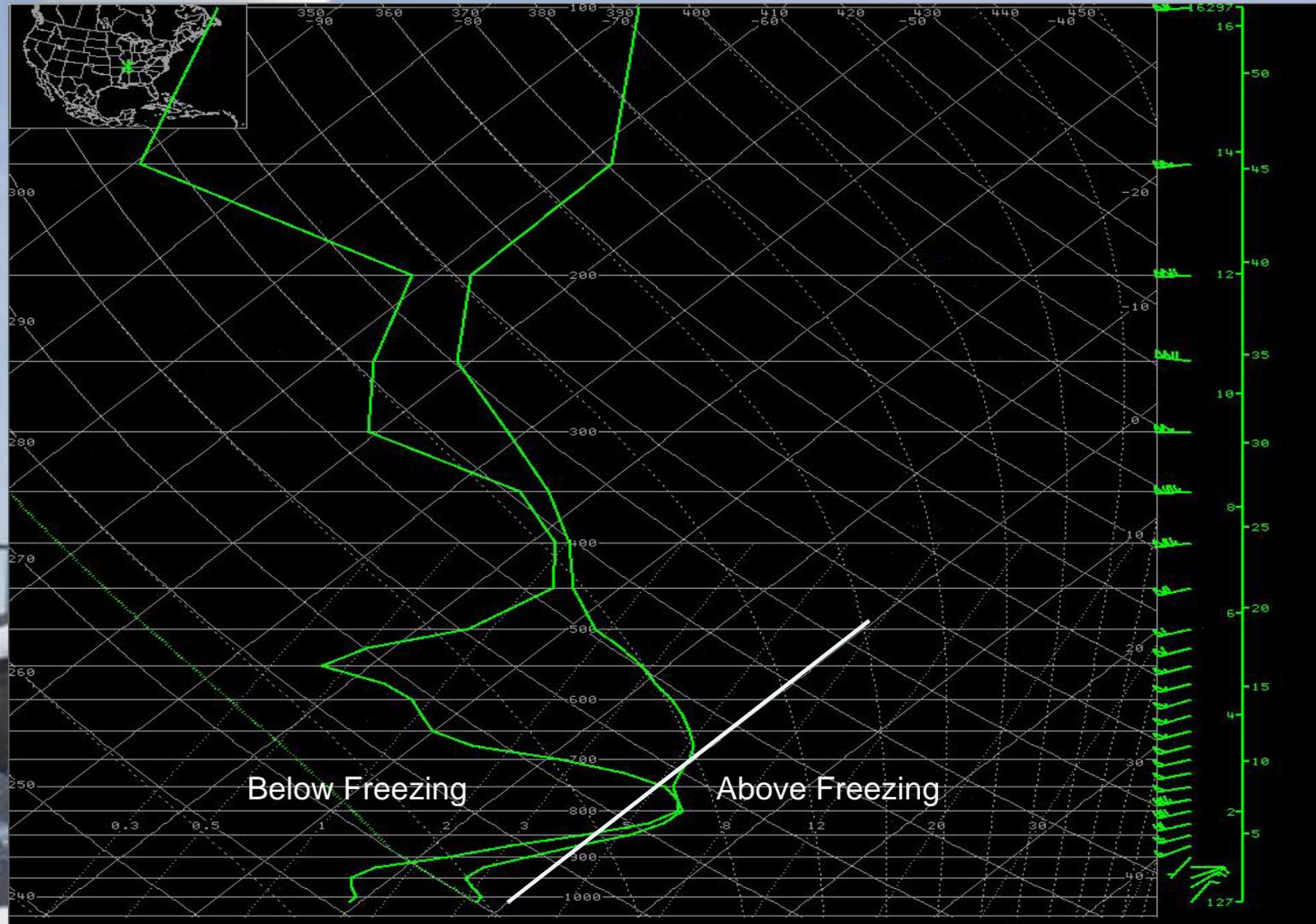
# January 26-28, 2009 Ice Storm Environment 6 PM Friday (23<sup>rd</sup>)



# January 26-28, 2009 Ice Storm Environment

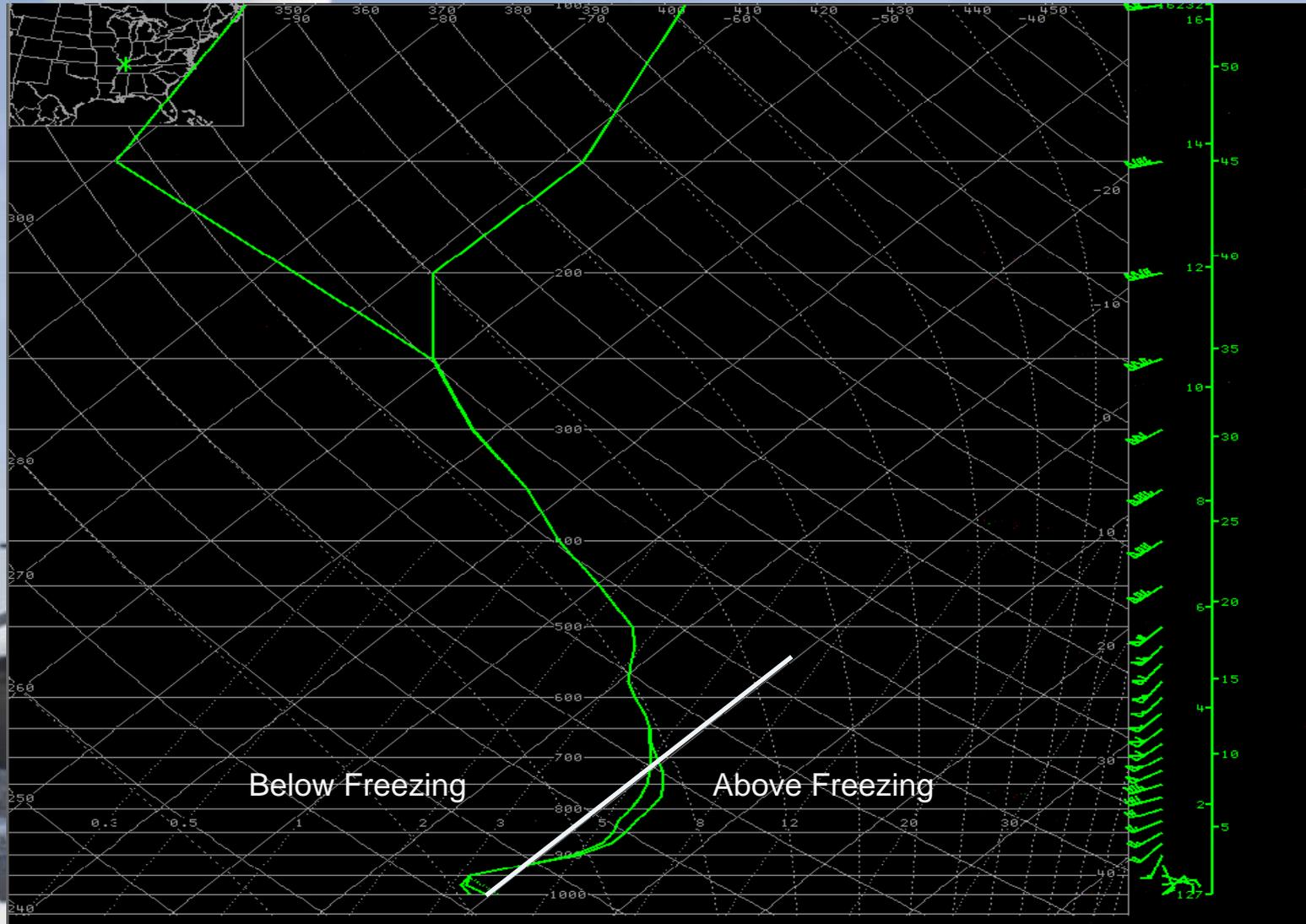
Sounding  
At  
KPAH  
(GFS)

6 PM  
Monday



# January 26-28, 2009 Ice Storm Environment

Sounding  
At  
KPAH  
  
12 AM  
Wednesday





B. Dodson

B. Dodson



B. Dodson

1/24/10 – Paducah Sun

*“All of us, including the residents are veterans of a major, major 100 year storm and we know what to expect. We know it is going to take a couple of days for the state and federal government to come in and help because of their bureaucracy.*

*People know they have to be prepared on their own.” -Van Newberry – McCracken*

*County Judge Executive*



# Impacts:

- No electricity for days-weeks
- Travel difficult to impossible for several days
- Damage to staff homes/cars
- Every tree in Western KY was damaged
- Staff afraid of looting/leaving family and residences
- Gas shortage – actually power to gas stations
- Kerosene shortage/price gouging
- Generator shortage – coming in by the truckload



# Impacts cont.

- Food spoiling
- All land lines plus AT&T cell towers down – no communication
- No batteries available
- Stores allowing only limited number of people in at a time and for only essentials
- Some places taking only cash – others only credit
- Cleaning up damage (trees on houses/cars etc)
- Period of cold weather followed ice storm



# NWS Paducah Impacts and Lessons Learned:

- Everyone without power, some for weeks. Fear ensued from not knowing when it would return.
- Never imagined the severe extent of damage to the power grid.
- Communications a major problem
- Co-workers shared food/homes
- Could not account for everyone quickly due to no phone service. (Need call down list)
- Limited staff at office – allowed people to stay with families
- Staff used office as shelter
- We have made improvements to make office more of a shelter
- Arrangements with National Guard
- Office now has a satellite phone but better HAM radio equipment is needed



# Preparation

- Have an up-to-date disaster kit
- Gas up your vehicles
- Have cash on hand
- Think about your pets
- Test your backup generator - fill with gas
- Fill extra gas cans for generator and vehicles
- Have a plan for what to do with your family if you have to work
- Prepare for no communications – HAM radio?
- Create a plan in the event you cannot contact everyone (Call down chart ): We had 1 person MIA for a period of time



B. Dodson

# During storm...

- Use ice/snow to pack coolers of frozen – refrigerated foods
- Fill bathtub with water to use in toilets
- If you have a camper or motor home – set this up as residence
- Gas fire logs (non vented) to heat homes
- Monitor radio for possible shelters, places to buy gas/groceries, updates to power situation.
- Monitor damage area for signs of improvement in order to get what you need
- Check on neighbors/friends – lend a helping hand when you are able



# Winter weather disaster kit:

- Essentials:
  - Canned Food/water
  - Medicines
  - Baby items
- Candles/Flashlights
- Chainsaw
- Camp stove and fuel
- Charged cell phone
- Coolers to store food from fridge if power out
- Manual can opener
- Blankets/Warm clothes
- Extra Batteries
- Battery powered radio
- Paper plates/plastic cups/utensils
- Heat source: Generators, kerosene heaters, etc



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# 3-Day Emergency Kit



## Month 1: October

### Canned Food Items (Quantity):

- Tuna (4)
- Chicken (2)
- Chili (2)
- Canned Pasta (8)
- Soups (2)
- Vegetables (8)
- Juices (1 six pack)
- Fruit (3)
- Peanut Butter (1)

### Other Items:

- Powder Milk (1)
- Box Cereal (1)
- Granola Bars (1 box),
- Trail Mix (1 box)
- Jelly (1)
- Crackers (1 box)
- Sugar
- Salt/Pepper
- Water (1 gallon per person per day)

## Month 2: November

### Personal Hygiene Items:

- Toothbrush (4)
- Toothpaste (1)
- Moist Wipes (2)
- Hand Sanitizer (1)
- Toilet Paper (1)
- Feminine Items
- Brush/Comb (1)
- Bar Soap (1)
- Prescription medicines
- Baby items

### Cooking Supplies:

- Charcoal (1)
- Lighter Fluid (1)
- Aluminum Foil (1)
- Paper Plates (1)
- Paper Bowls (1)
- Plastic Cups (1)
- Plastic Ware (1)
- Paper Towels (2)
- Manual Can Opener (1)
- Zip lock Bags (2)

## Month 3: December

### Miscellaneous:

- Radio FM/AM Weather (1)
- Flashlight/Battery Operated lamps/oil lanterns/light sticks (several)
- Batteries – Different sizes (Several)
- Smoke Detector/Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Basic First Aid Kit (1)
- Matches/Butane Lighters (1)
- Storage container(s) for the kit
- Whistle (1)                      Trash Bags (1)
- Bleach (1)                        Disinfectant (1)
- Pain Reliever (1)                Anti Diarrhea (1)
- Antacid (1)
- Pencil/Paper (1)
- Corded Phone (1)
- Candles (Several)
- Blankets/Towels (4)
- Basic Tools
- Plastic Sheeting
- Duct Tape
- Clothing Items
  - Sturdy Shoes
  - Work Gloves
  - Hat
  - Rain Gear
  - Extra Socks
- Other Items: \_\_\_\_\_

# Affects Still Being Felt to This Day

- Reminders still there in the trees once the leaves fell
- Concerned about any mention of “ice” in the forecast...
  - Discussed at staff meetings prior to winter season
  - Have repeatedly had to put down rumors of another ice storm
  - Compared current storm to “The Ice Storm” in products
- People still talking about it
  - Emotional toll still exists

