

The June 5th 2009 Tornadic Supercell in Goshen County, Wyoming: A Look at Storm Evolution and the Collaboration of Operational and Research Meteorologists during the Event

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ABSTRACT

A supercell thunderstorm developed over southeast Wyoming on June 5th 2009 and tracked through Platte and Goshen Counties. This storm dropped a long lived tornado from rural southwest Goshen County east to near the town of La Grange, WY. Hail up to the size of softballs was also observed across southern Goshen County during the event. The VORTEX2 (hereafter V2) field program observed the storm in great detail and made their first successful tornado intercept of the intensive observation period. The combination of forecaster experience, situational awareness, and timely reports relayed from the V2 Field Operations Center via NWS Chat let to a tornado warning being issued with 18 minutes of lead time. The tornado was assigned an Enhanced Fujita (EF) 2 rating based on the damage survey conducted by WFO Cheyenne and Goshen County emergency management, V2 aerial and ground damage surveys, and measurements taken by the V2 mobile Doppler radar fleet. This presentation will discuss the antecedent conditions to the event and subsequent warning decisions which contributed to the relatively long lead time. In addition, the collaboration between WFO Cheyenne and V2 will be described.