**Clean Read Transcriptions**

1. June 1 2011 at 4:45pm I was over my friend Lili’s house getting ready for dance and I thought that it was just a thunderstorm. But it was a tornado and it had destroyed half of Spring. The first time, at 5:20 my aunt called me to see if I w/ my mom because she didn’t answer and I said I’ll call her. At 5:30 a random # called me it was my father, the tornado picked up his car while he was in it, droped [dropped] it an a tree fell on it… He’s okay but I had to call my mom to see if she was okay. Around 7 I went home and I walked up the St talking to my friend to see if she was okay and an ambulance stoped [stopped] and parked and told me an parked and told me an my family to take shelter in my baysment [basement] for an hr. Its really sad to see the people who lost everything and you never know what you have until its gone. (June 6 2011) [SYMPATHY, CONFUSION]

2. On June 1 2011 there was an tornado in Springfield, Mass. Where I was 18 years old. One the day of the tornado I was at home watching the new says their going to be a tornado watch and I told my cousin on the phone that all it was going to do was rain then I started to laugh, then my mom came home at 4:30pm and it started hailing. My mom and I went grocery shopping, threw both of them hoping that we wouldn’t get blown away. The aftermath of the tornado I went downtown to see how bad it was and decide to help serve sandwiches and drinks. I really and truly feel bad. (6/6/11) [DISBELIEF, SYMPATHY]

3. June 1, 2011. About 3:30pm. I had left my house to go play basketball with my cousin and 3 of my friends. Out of nowhere they made everybody in the YMCA go downstairs to the weight room to be safe from the tornado. We were watching it on the news to see where it was at. If you were driving you could not see anything but the lights of the cars. Next day I found out my friend lost his house but everybody was safe.

4. During the tornado, I was walking to the store. When I was walking back. I had to run into the house because it was basicly [basically] down the street. It passed my house, because I leave [live] next to Ludow. It shook my house and took my dumpster. We still can’t find it… but that’s what happened. (6/6) [FEAR]

5. On Wednesday, June 2, 2011 I was at the bus terminal heading home on the bus until I heard that all the buses running to Forest Park were no longer running due to the tornado. I was pretty shocked when they told this to everyone and me. I put it aside so I won’t freak out while walking to my uncle’s apartment in the nursery projects by Mercy Hospital. When I got there I seen that it was a tragic moment because of the tornado. Around eight o’clock in the afternoon, after the tornado stopped, my uncle brought me home, which took about an hour because of the traffic. While we were in traffic I seen trees in the middle of the streets and on top of houses, the siding and roofs of some houses were gone into other people’s yards.[FEAR]

6. During the tornado warning I was at school, on my way to walk home but then my friend gave me a ride home because it looked like it was going to rain. Once I walked into my house my mother told me there was a tornado warning and not to cook, turn off the lights, no TV’s on (except the news in the living room) and take all the fans out of the windows and close them. Then we all sat in the living room impatiently watching the news. While watching the news said to go in our basements and we did but my mom stayed upstairs to call my dad from work. As time passed I fell asleep and woke up the next morning to go with my dad to videotape the aftermath of the tornado. This was the first tornado I have witnessed and survived and June 1, 2011 will be a day I will never forget. [ANXIOUS]

7. June 1st 2011 the tornado in Springfield 4:30pm (around). The day of the tornado I was sitting on the couch doing a art project. My grandmother was cooking my grandfather was on the computer, my mom was watching TV in her room and my two sisters was sitting next to me talking about my art project. Then all of the sudden the television made a warning sign saying a tornado was coming. So my mom puts her television on 22 news and their talking bout the tornado so my mom yells to the family to come see. We all run in her room and it shows the tornado and on the camra [camera]. My family and I get worryd [worried] and talking bout it. It was moving fast in West Springfield, now in downtown the news people tell us to take shelter! My family jump up running to get the animals the four dogs , a cat and the frogs as fast as we can! Then run down the bacement [basement] with my uncle and aunt. You can hear the tornado, in a far distance, meanwhile my grandfathers still upstairs. We didn’t know what he was doing. I get worryed [worried] and run up the stairs and open the door and yell to my grandpa to come down. He finally comes down to the basement and wait as we watch the television, all worried. We stayed in the bacement for oproximently [approximately] 15 to 20 minutes then came back upstairs and watched the news again as we did wat we was doing. [WORRY]

8. The Springfield F3 tornado 2011. I first heard about it while I was looking at directions on Google maps. My boyfriend texted me asking if I was going anywhere and I to ld him I had a BSEP meeting at the Chestnut St. Buildings of Baystate. I didn’t believe that there was going to be a tornado. So I left my house and went to Plainfield to pick up my friend. When I was at my friend’s house we watched the news and 5 minutes after I went down Main St, the tornado had come by. So after the tornado warning was over we went to the meeting. When we got there, we were informed Baystate was closed because it became a triage. So we had to drive in the second tornado warning back to my friend’s house in Plainfield.

9. The Springfield F3 tornado 2011. I was in the library of High School of Commerce when they announced there was a tornado warning. They said to make sure you get inside somewhere safe. I had to leave and my mom was waiting for me outside. At 4pm, it was pouring rain and small chunks of hail. I didn’t want to run to the car, but thinking my mom was waiting, I decided to. When I finally [was] in the car, we were on our way home. Rush hour must’ve started a bit early too. My mind just kept thinking that the windshield would crack from the hail hitting it.

 So we soon go to Bradley Road and there was traffic at the light, but we were close to home. Then suddenly, a huge gust of wind came from behind us and debris was going everywhere, when I looked up I saw a piece of tree twirling and I was thinking that it was going to hit us. But i[t] didn’t. However, when my mom tried to turn around the wind was blowing on her side of the car. My heart was beating so fast and my adrenaline was pumping. Out of nowhere, I hear something slam against the driver’s side. I quickly screamed and looked to see nothing there. She told me that was a Springfield trash bin. “Okay let’s just go to Milene’s house” my mom said. A lot of thoughts were going through my mind. Was I going to be hurt? Would I survive this? Is my family okay? After we finally go away from it, we tried to find another way to go home. Unfortunately, Bradley, Panker, Plumtree and Union Streets were all blocked by trees. While we did that we stopped at my grandpa’s house for a while and then my grandma’s to see if they were hit at all. It took us a total of 5 hours to get home because we had to go through Enfield, CT.

 A few days later, we drove down Bradley Rd and seeing the destruction was heartbreaking. What once was a beautiful neighborhood w/ a lot of trees along the sidewalk was now bare of green leaves and fallen trees. We drove by Hickory St. and there was a car flipped over and a couple of roofs of the projects were battered and ruined. Every time we drive by Bradley Road or Hickory we will never forget what happened that day. [CONFUSION, WORRY]

10. The Springfield F3 Tornado 2011. On June 1st 2011 Western Mass experienced a category F3 tornado. Hearing information from the news it crossed the Connecticut River from West Springfield and went downtown Springfield. I also heard that a guy and his son were in the car and the wind being so powerful pulled the boy out of the car and they found his body in the river. While driving on Plumtree Road I observed over the golf course, all the trees fell down, some from the root and some broke from the middle. On Roosevelt Ave there was a tree planted on the sidewalk. All the side was lifted up with the tree still planted and electrical wires all over the road. My associates were saying that Cathedral High School was down. People had to be staying at the Mass Mutual Center on State St. Houses that I observed had half the side of their roof gone. Some of them had trees fell directly in the middle, cars were turned over, trees fell on them etc. The sky also turned YELLOW! And leaves all over the place. Where I live in Ludlow were had rain and hail.

11. The Springfield F3 Tornado 2011. Walking home from my bustop [bus stop] I noticed the sky was changing view. I t was sunny all day and I soon as I got home I heard thunder. I was locked out my house and then it started raining as I waited for my mom to arrive in the drive way. I waited a while and she hasn’t come so I got in a truck that my brother was trying to fix that was in the drive way. That was just my luck because afterwards it started to hail. With no cell phone to contact my mom I had to wait for someone to come. I could see the lightning in front of me and hear the thunder that was so loud. I lived in front of something that’s like a forest or is, and the trees attrack [attract] lightning as you may know, so there was a lot of lightning, which was dangerous. After waiting like 2 hours, my brother’s friend came to pick me up since my brother called him up and he told me that my mom was at the hospital because she got caught in the tornado. But thank God, she’s fine, although the car got damaged. [CONFUSION, FEAR, WORRY]

12. The first time I hear that a tornado could possibly caome was that same day after school, after our team work out. We definitely didn’t expect to get a tornado in Springfield. But at about 4:00 me and my friends walk down the street to go to the Dumbar Community Center. We hung outside of the center in the rain to wait for open gym for about 30 minutes. Then all of the sudden we seen the actual tornado coming at us. So we ran into the center while everyone in the center fled to the basement. We stayed safe in there for about an hour. After we walked out of the center to walk home. It was still cloudly with a little rain. As we started walking we kept constantly hearing ambulance and police sirens all over the place. We kept walking toward the Forest Park area noticing heavy traffic. But when we hit Hancock Street. We were shocked from the damage we started to see. We seen all the trees on the ground, side walks of the ground and on the roots of trees, houses broken in half, people trapped on second floors of houses and debree [debris] every where. The clouds got dark again and it started to rain heavily. Police men and parmetic [paramedic] telling people to find shelter with in 20 minutes. The hundres [hundreds] of people started running everywhere and finding shelter. To me it seemed like the world was coming to an end. So feeling scared for our live, we all ran to the closest of our three houses, which was Shaki’s house. While running everything looked dark, destructive and rapid. WE had to run and navigate around fallen trees and cars. But finally we go to my friend house and we were safe. And when I got to my house up the hill, my house and Forest Park area was safe. [FEAR, ANXIOUS]

13. When the tornado first hit, I really wasn’t sure what was going. I was in my room and then I look at my window noticed it was raining then afterwards I start hearing the thunder and it starts getting darker outside. I start wondering why is it so dark around 6:20 and when I see my mom outside looking I go outside and take a look for myself but I wasn’t sure what was going until I started looking at the news to find out that part of Springfield got hit by the tornado and I’m pretty sure people were scared out of their mind. Especially because some people’s houses were destroyed and now they don’t really have no where to go besides a shelter. I’m pretty proud of everyone who made it out alive form that horrible disaster and for those who didn’t made it hope they rest in peace and go to a better place. [SCARED]

14. The Springfield F3 Tornado has been one worest [worst] things that happened to Springfield. House were destroied [destroyed], trees were ripped by their roots. Unfortunately there were 4 deaths. There was a lot of damage, two schools were even destroyied [destroyed]. On my street thee was no damage. I didn’t really see the tornado. All I saw was the heavy rain clouds and wind rustling the trees. At one point it stopped raining and the sun almost came out. But then the rain came back full force. One of my friends was in his house when it hit. He told me that his house was destroyied [destroyed] and that he even got hurt. So consequently, the Springfield F3 tornado affect many people. Now is a time were we need to come together and help those who go affect by it.

15. My experience:

* I was the only one in the house when it happened.
* I saw the tree in my backyard flip over and fall in the building next to my house.
* I felt the house move from side to side.
* The first floor people locked the basement so I had to stay up in my house on the floor.

What I saw

* I saw trees fall down.
* I saw houses completely on the floor
* I saw people looking for shelter
* I heard kids crying
* I saw a school bus destroyed
* I saw the tornado in the news and was impacted because I’ve never experienced something like that.

I Felt

* As if I was never going to see my family again.

16. They day of the tornado at was at my friends house when the clouds started to turn and come down. So once we saw that we ran into the basement. But after a few second after we saw it cleared out we went outside, ate pizza, then I ran home after I ate. But one of my cousins was on the bridge. When the truck behind her flipped and she felt that the car was going to the side. So she hit the gas and made it out of it safe with her daughter. That all I can say.

17. When the tornado happen the whole Springfield was in shock and was amazed at the power behind it. It was very powerful, it was in the category of F3. That is pretty strong because we never have tornados in this area. I never thought that it will happen in Massachusetts but it did and did a never big amount of damage. I was at least 100 ft to 150ft away from the one near my house. [DISBELIEF]

18. This tornado was very severe and destroyed many things in Springfield. It destroyed many important things like schools, homes and shelters. I was a witness my self for example I’ve never seen the tornado from a block away and warned as many as I could. I was scared and nervous because I never witness something this big before. I hope that everyone was OK and I wish he bestest luck for everybody. [SCARED, NERVOUS]

19. The Springfield F3 tornado 2011. I didn’t really see much but I did see the orange, yellow clouds. After the fact, I did see some really torn up houses. I thank God my family and friends are okay as long as they are healthy and alive I’m good.

20. Experience

1. Destroy a lot of house
2. A lady died while saving her child.
3. My friend house got hit destroy
4. At 8:30 the sky was yellow bright out
5. School was destroy
6. On the high way car was thrown in the river
7. Most of my friends are homeless

21. During the Springfield Tornado I was getting ready to go to my track banquet then I saw my windows shaking and the trees. Then I went to the bathroom to hide, when I came back out Is aw that all the trees had fallen down then I walked to Main stret and saw upside down cars.

22. On June 1st a tornado struck Springfield. It was a sad and scary moment. It was something unexpected. At the time I was home. I had never experienced anything like that. I was barely closing my window when the wind came so hard, a tree in front of my house came down. My family and I ran downstairs to try to get to the basement but before we even got there everything had passed. We went outside to see and I was shocked to see the big mess. Our fence fell, a tree fell in the backyard. The next street was a disaster. The roofs were gone from houses, some were completely torn down. The trees were everywhere. It was such a sad thing to see people trying to rescue some things. [DISBELIEF, SCARED, SHOCK]

23. The Springfield F3 Tornado 2011

* I seened the tornado. It seemed like it was coming towards my hou
* Winds shoock my house
* My porch got messed up
* Houses were destroyed/ schools damaged
* People died/ a lot of people got injured
* Many trees fell

I was in my third floor porch and I seened the tornado come towards my house. I ran to the basement with my dad and the old lady from my third floor.

24. I wasn’t really affected by the tornado because it did not go by my area, but I’ve seen the damage it has done to the town. I’ve seen plenty of trees pulled out from the roots and houses that had been hit. It’s a terrible view and I am sorry to the families that have lost anything. Another thing was how nice the sky was in my neighborhood. The sky was orange and yellow it was an amazing view. [SYMPATHY]

25. On the day of the tornado I was at my cousins house in was Springfild. I don’t remember the name of the street they live on better it oy the Cumberland Farm near the rotary.

 We where all on the porch when it began to rain and when the wind was blowing hard. We all decided to go inside and it seemed like instant the wind grew stronger as soon as the door was close. Everyone run to the basement but I wanted to see it. I went to the door but it didn’t open. When tryed [tried] to open it. The wind was going crazy so I went back inside the basement and through the basement window I was the tornado. It looked like a huge cloud on the ground and I remember hearing trees snapping and falling to the ground. The tornado lasted about 45 seconds to a minute then was gone.

 It was scary but no one on the street was hurt. Unfortunately some people down the street over had been kill by the tornado. [SCARED, CURIOUS]

26. What I experienced was unbelievable, I never thought a tornado would happen in Massachusetts but it was an experience I’ll never forget this tornado showed me what to do if another one happens or if I move to a place where tornados happen often. [SHOCK]

27. Well the day of the tornado I was at my friends house and on the TV there was an EAS warning that kept coming up. So I decided to leave and take a bus home. While I was walking to the bus stop, hail started to fall so I ran and waited for the bus. I didn’t know the busses had stopped running. I asked someone at the store and they told me the last bus had already left. So I started running back to my friends house. The I saw a tree got struck by lightning. When I got to my friends house I changed and waited til everything stopped to go home. On my way home, I seen the damage that the tornado did up Maple St and to McDuffie School. I really feel bad for all the people that were affected and lost their homes and for those who lost family members due to the tornado. [CONFUSION]

28. When the tornado came I think I was one of the lucky people. I say this because just before the tornado hit I was on my way to the barbershop. I was half way there then my mom called me and told me I should come home. I told her I was half way there , then she said alright just go. A couple minutes later my phone rings again and its my brother this time. he told me to get home now because we are about to have an tornado. So I turn my car around and start to head back home. Five minutes after I got home is when the tornado came. As the tornado came I was in my kitchen watching the wind as it blew very hard blowing everything in my backyard away. I turned the TV to the news to see if it was really a tornado because I couldn’t believe it would hit Springfield. I didn’t know that the tornado did that much damage. After the tornado was over my brother and I tried to go for a ride to see how much damage was done to the city but the traffic was backed up so my brother and I went home. When we got home we just kept looking at the sky and it was bright yellow at around 9 o’clock. My brother and I looked at each other and started shaking our heads. This is what happened during the tornado. [CONFUSION]

29. On the day of the tornado, Wednesday June 1. Before the tornado hit Springfield I just got to my house from school and my grandfather was watching the new and their were showing tornado. I didn’t think much about it because I thought a tornado would never hit Springfield. I had looked outside the weather started to change from being very nice and sunny outside to being raining and hail flowing. I started to worry a little. My mother just left the house to get some food and I called her to hurry home. While I was waiting I sat and watched the news with the rest of my family. They had said the tornado had hit Westfield. Then all of the sudden the new cast had caught on camera the tornado crossing the Connector [Connecticut] River into downtown Springfield. I couldn’t believe my eyes. I started to get really scared. My mother had just got home when I saw that. As the news when on about it. My family and I called my very close friends to see if they were okay too. We continued to watch the news to see if the tornado would hit near where I lived and if so we prepped to protect ourselves and go down to the basement. After the tornado was gone some trees on my street were knocked down but it wasn’t as bad as other areas were. [SHOCK]

30. On the evening of June 1, 2011 a tornado struck Western Mass area I was very scared. Lightning struck and my little sister started crying I looked for my phone and started calling everyone to see if they were OK. What was more terrifying my mother was not home, she was taking care of her patients. She called saying she was OK. The tornado struck the nation and lives were taken and plenty of people are homeless and hungry. I took out clothes, shoes and supplies I did not need and I brought them to shelters for the people in need. [COMMUNITY, FEAR]

31. On the evening of June 1st 2011 the city of Springfield was hit by a tornado. The day that it hit I was with my “sister”, Tiffany Harris at her house. Outside it began to get dark and rain but no one expected what was going to come.

 I am very greatful [grateful] to be here today, writting [writing] this essay. The day that the tornado hit was the day that I appreciated my life more than ever. I was on Facebook talking to my friends trying to convince them to go home because they were downtown and it was raining. I was almost finished and about to head home when Tiffany’s mom told me to stay that the sky looked really scary that when it cleared up she would take me home. Not even two minutes later the tornado hit the her house. Everyone was scared but the main concern were Tiffany’s two yr old baby and Melissa’s 9 month old baby. We all ran to the basement and waited. Everyone began to cry as Leam, Tiffany’s stepdad tried to calm us down.

 Once everything was over we walked outside and saw all the damage. We began to call everyone to check if they were OK and thank God they were.

 This day made me appreciate my life so much more and I’m so greatful [grateful] that Tiffany’s mom worried enough to tell me to stay because if not I would probably be dead.

 I believe that June 1st wasn’t my day to die and I’m greatful [grateful] to still be here.

32. My experience to this encident [incident] is unthinkable. It was the most scaryest {scariest] thing I’ve seen in my life living in Springfield. But the most thing tht scard me is all my friends who was a victim of the tornado. I kept getting phone calls but the service was just coming and going. I watched the news every five minutes for another tornado watch. I ran into my girlfriend’s house to see if she was OK because it was getting close. I couldn’t get any transpertation [transportation] because of all the damage that was held in Springfield. I was hoping that I wasn’t going to get another phone call from a friend who got hit and lost everything because it will be to hard to deal with. But after all that I put as much support to help the ones who are in need. [COMMUNITY, SADNESS, FEAR]

33. On Wednesday, June 1 2011 a tornado hit Springfield. It was a tragedy for those who lost homes and family. It didn’t affect us. I didn’t witness the tornado while it was going on but I witnessed the aftermath. On Thursday, June 2 2011 I drove around Springfield seeing broken trees and damaged houses. It was shocking to see what the tornado had caused.

34. On June 1st 2011 I experienced the first tornado in my 15 years of living. I was a regular hot day out, 90°, possibly a little warmer. All of the sudden all of my friends parents are calling them letting them know theirs [there’s] a tornado watch at this time I was at Dunbar Community Center and I seen all the young kids coming into the basement were I currently was and they said theirs [there’s] a tornado I didn’t really believe because when I went back up and looked outside it looked normal. Then I tried calling my mom and she didn’t answer so I starting worrying. Then I was asking every body for a ride and the farthest that I could get was near the projects that the tornado already wripped [ripped] apart. So I was walking the rest of the way home and I just started to break down crying because of the desaster [disaster] around me it was sad to see that so many people lost their homes and that I could have possibly lost mine. Then I finally got home, my brothers and sisters run over to me happy that I’m safe. All I could have done was say thank you God that I’m safe and my family is safe as well. I know it was over after all the rain and the sky turned blue again. [SADNESS, FEAR]

35. The Springfield F3 tornado 2011

* Sky turned yellow
* Trees uprooted
* Condemn houses
* Pieces of roofs were flying around
* No electricity
* Wires were all on the streets
* Trees were blocking roads
* Houses were blown apart

36. Last week Wednesday 1 2011 around 5 o’clock their [there] was a tornado that hit many house, schools. During this tornado I was sleeping I my room when my little brother came in and woke me up. When I woke up the sky was very yellow. I had no power what so ever at my house. I wasen’t [wasn’t] scared for a bit but then my mom light up some candles and we were good for the rest of the night. When the tornado was over their [there] was very loud thunderstorms and lots of lightning. Every time a lightning would struck I would sorta jump. We was with out power for like two days so we whent [went] to my aunts house till we got our power back. Looking at the streets and the messed up houses make me really sad. Knowing that so many people lost their homes and have no were [where] to stay is a very sad feeling. People are now homeless and sufering [suffering because of this. The South end is all messed up buildings, knocked down trees all over the place it’s just a horrible view. But thank God that not a lot of people died and that they are now getting help. I hope that another tornado doesn’t come down here and brake [break] other things.

37. Springfield Tornado F3

* Never would have imagine a tornado would hit Springfield
* The destruction of Springfield was pretty massive
* My uncle told me that the tornado was originally an F5 but the river slowed it down
* On the first day of tornado season there was a tornado
* Broke some window on my house, no serious damage
* Didn’t have time to react quickly enough
* I saw big big trees ripped from its roots, house ripped to shreds.

38. Leading up to the Tornado hitting, where I lived it started as light ran [rain], so no one thought anything of it. But as the hour past the clouds were gone and there it was just a blank sky.

 Then the light rain turned into heavy hard rain with large hail. The speed of the wind picked up and the trees were blowing severely. Like a snap of a finger the sky turned a grayish black.

 Everybody, to an extend didn’t take as seriously until we turned on the TV to find out that the tornado was actually here in Springfield. The tense feeling that came over all of us was very heavy. But then, the rain and the wind blowing stopped so we jus thought it was over. We waited on the News to see what was to happen next, meanwhile all of us are calling family members and friends to see if they were okay and to make sure everyone was safe. It rained and blew heavy winds approximately 3 times. If the tornado would have hit again the News said it would have hit Carew St, which would have meant that it would have hit where I lived, I am a blessed person. [THANKFUL]

39. I wasn’t expecting a tornado. I had seen a warning pop up while I was watching TV. I didn’t think much of it because the tornado warning had said New Hampshire. So I was in my room with Kellie, my girlfriend, when suddenly we heard things hitting my window and we felt the house shake a little. When we looked outside my bedroom windows we saw trees falling and we began to run downstairs. By the time we reached the bottom of the stairs everything had stopped, but damage had been done. All the trees where I lived had fallen. A tree actually a few trees had fell on Kellies car. I couldn’t get out of my house through the doors I had to go through my neighbors house to get. All the lines were busy so I couldn’t get through to my family for a while. Eventually I got through to my family, everyone was fine, some damages had been done to their house, but nothing bad enough o leave them homeless. That night my mother, my baby brother, Kellie and I stood at my aunt’s house that night so that we’d be together. [CONFUSION]

 6/6/11

One afternoon, I was on facebook and a friend had uploaded their status saying tornado. I didn’t believe it so I went along my business. Next, the wind starts blowing extremely hard. So I turned of my window fan. My mom ran and got me, my siblings out our rooms and brought us into the hallway, until the wind stopped blowing. After we went outside, our backyard looked like a forest trees everywhere, power lines crushed. We were left w/o electricity for 2 days. I felt bad for the people without homes or anything. I would have never thought a tornado could hit Springfield.

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Before

I was in my basement watching tv when I heard on the news that a tornado was on its way to hit our city; to be honest I didn’t believe it, so I changed the channel and started watching a movie while listening to the rain fall. I was alone in my house with my little brother. This is when my mom gets home & tells me what’s happening, this is when I get scared.

During

We all started watching the news downstairs in the basement trying to know what was gong on, my mom was just praying for my sister who was on her way home. She got home and that’s when we relaxed but were also aware of what was happening

Afterward

I was very scared because we couldn’t make or receive any phone calls. I saw how it got really dark outside and all of the sudden got very bright & yellow. It was very windy outside, but thank God as far as I know nothing happened to my neighborhood.

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 6/6/11

The way I found out there was a tornado is when I was in the living room listening to music watching the weather channel. I looked outside and saw it raining hail. Then it just stopped and they said on TV that t he tornado ahs touched the Connecticut river. I started talking to my dad and texting my two friends making sure they were alright. My brother and nephew went into the basement and my father and me stayed up stairs in the living room. So I sticked my head out the front door and saw it moving west. I ran real fast into the basement and sat on the bed texting my friends telling them that I saw the tornado. I told my house and they didn’t believe me until they saw the pictures on the news. I called my mom afterwards and asked if she was OK and she was fine. After what I saw that day, I never felt the same again.

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6/6/11

After school I went to put in an application at Olympia Sport by IParty & I was sitting in the car listening to 93.7 when it cut out giving a warning but when my cousin got back in the car we were laughing because its 93.7 and we always get tornado watches. Then the sky got really dark, saw things blowing around, trees were leaning and the car was rocking. I had my little cousin, about 3, crying in the back. Then we finally drove off toward Rocky’s. We went to the gas station and the power cut off. Then we got like half the gas we put in so we started heading back to my grandmother’s house near Springfield College but we took so many detours to be stuck in traffic for an hour just to get nowhere. We had to chill at my cousin’s girlfriend’s house until about 8 then we left and took her back road when lighting dropped a half a block from us where we can see it sketch out the sky and hear the huge rumble. Then we got stuck in traffic by hickory for about 30 min. When we finally got home my family was down in the basement till later that night when we went outside and celebrated.

The End

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We were down town when it happened.

My mom was going to pick me up at school at 3:00 o’clock p.m. and I was going to my theirpy appointment. Me and her talked about he appointment. It lasted an hour (4:00p.m.) and then it started to rain, the sky darkened. I did not really think anything of it. So I got home, wen up stairs and when I was getting changed out of my school uniform I could hear hail fall onto my deck. I was amazed. I looked out my window, there was so many white little balls. So I ran down stairs and I was like omg its hailing out. So we all (mom, dad, brother and me) sat in the living room, turned on the t.v. and watched everyone being interviewed, videos being watched, pictures of hail, trees down, stuff like that. My mom was freaking out she was grabbing flash lights, food, and clothes for her. She was yelling at me and my bro to get some shoes on and I grabbed my real moms picture (I’m adopted) and shoes. We ate dinner and still waiting to see if it was going to hit us (never did) then time passes. The school calls and says that there was no school the next day because Springfield Central High School was a holding place. The next day we went down town to go to my dad’s doctor’s appointment and saw trees down, roofs torn off buildings and houses and we could not even go down streets cause of trees in the way. My dad was like its funny how big branches are on the floor but little flower baskets are still hanging there. We were near the basketball hall of fame and there were so many fire truck and ambulances. It was crazy.

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While the tornado started I was on the porch of my house with my grandparents, my mom, and my little sister. My grandfather was watching the news and it had a tornado warning on the bottom of the broadcaster. It started to rain more and then we have received a phone call by my aunt saying that she was stuck at downtown at her job, that she needed someone to pick her up. That’s when the tornado began and we just stood on the porch looking at everything. At one point the sky started to change colors. I was recording everything possible. After the tornado stopped my family and I was still worried because we haven’t heard from her. That’s when the tornado began and we just stood on the porch looking at everything. At one point the sky started to change colors. I was recording everything possible. After the tornado stopped my family and I was still worried because we haven’t heard from my aunt still. Like around 8 at night my aunt finally showed up at my house and she kept telling us how close the tornado was to her. We were all happy that she was okay.

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 June 8, 2011

On the day of June 1st 2011 I was traveling back to Springfield MA, after vacationing with my mom for 5 days in Jacksonville, Florida. We arrived at our home at 3:00am and I slept for awhile then got ready fir school. I arrived at school at 10:00am and had a typical day at school. I took the bust home and just hungout until I was ready to go to sleep. While I was on my computer around 4:15 when the wind was blowing really hard. It started turning darker outside the[n] a local announcement popped up on my television saying there was a tornado. I got really scar[r]ed grabbed a blanket & some tortilla chips & water then ran to my downstairs bathroom. I hop[p]ed in the tub & put the blanket over me. I styed under for about 15 minutes until I heard it started thundering & raining. When I came form under my blanket it was a[n] orangish color outside like the whole world was on fire. I called my mom and made sure my house was okay. I was very fortunate to not have any damage done to my home but I cant say the same for the homes up the street from mine. The other families houses were totally destroyed. So were a couple [of] schools. It was a very sad day for many people. After everything all I could think about was being back in Florida having a good time at the beach & having cookouts. The next couple days after we were back in school and me & a couple of my friends volunteered to help the red cross pick up cots out of one gym for the people who lost there homes & had to stay at our school. I was happy to help the people that weren’t as fortunate as I was.

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Before the tornado hit I was at school. Once I got home it was 4:10pm. My step father got in the house & told me to change the channel to the weather channel. He said that theirs a tornado coming. During the tornado I was scared that it was going to come towards my house after the tornado I was on facebook checking if everyone was okay.

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Before

Before the tornado came I was at the Eastfield Mall eating subway. Then I started to see people run like crazy yelling so I walk to w[h]ere they were running. Outside you could see the tornado form. People starting running back inside and it started [to] hail and rain.

During

When the rain stopped I ran to my cousin’s house who lives next to the mall and stayed there. It started raining and continued thundering. I watched the news to see where tornado was. [It] didn’t hit where I lived so I went to bed.

Feelings Afterward

When I saw the news of the tornado forming I was amazed that a tornado actually hit Springfield. Afterwards I started to feeling bad hearing stories of people who died. I did so[me] volunteer work at Basilica church to help people.

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 6-8-11

Before the tornado hit Springfield I was on the bus on my way to my friends house when I found out about the tornado. I really didn’t take the tornado or even the thunderstorm before the tornado. Something just told me tornado in Springfield? That never happens. But in the news they showed the part where the tornado got created and it started sucking up water in West Springfield and I live in Plainfield so they’re right next to each other. So I was in panic mode I didn’t know what to do. All that kept going through my head is my family is gone but I kept trying to keep I contact [with] them.

I was in Forest Park at my friend’s house. My friend john calls me crying that he lost his girlfriend and he’s by himself so me, Shana, and Scarlet run to the South End to help him. But while we were running the cops said that another tornado was comin[g] so we broken into some random person’s basement window and chilled there for a lil. But everything in Southend was destroyed so my other friend calls me to go to the Mass Mutual Center, that there’s a lot of people there and food. I saw Mr. Pidachi there, we were chillen. But after the mass Mutual wait was long. But after they let us go everything for the outside looked so different. It was insane. Somewhere in south end some woman got arrested because she wanted to go in a building because she drove an hour to get o Springfield and she wasn’t leaving without her mother. And she still got arrested in front of her children an[d] everything. This storm will forever be a factor in Springfield Mass.

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I found out about the tornado because I was sleeping over my friends house and when we both came back to her house from school her dad said there was a tornado watch. At first we didn’t believe him because nothing like that ever happens in Massachusetts but then I went on facebook and a lot of people wrote it in their status. But even then I still doubted it would happen because we live in MA where there’s mountains. Afterwards my friend wanted to sleep over my house so we went there and awhile after it was getting really cloudy outside and it got really windy. We were kind of scared because we really didn’t’ think there would be a tornado. But at first it wasn’t too bad so when the winds and rain calmed own we decided to go to downtown to see how much damage it made and there was a lot of police cars. And they were blocking street and then really heavy thunder started and it sounded like fireworks so we were gonna go home until my mom decided she wanted donuts so we went to Dunkin Donuts. When we were going back to my house the thunder was still pretty bad when we got home. Me, my friend, and sister were sitting in the living room until my mom called out and told us to look outside and the sky was completely yellow. We kind of got even more scared because the sky was just really gray and out of nowhere it turned yellow. After that everything calmed down and there was no school for the next two days because all the damage it did and they were using our school, Springfield Central high school as a shelter for the people who loss[sic] their homes. Since their was no school we drove around Downtown, Forest Park, and West Springfield and some places were perfectly fine but some of the houses were ruined and crushed. Some you could see inside the houses and some were just completely crushed. When I saw the houses I felt really bad because if you picture yourself in that position or someone you know you’ll be really sad. And seeing the house made me wanna help those people.

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On the day the tornado hit there was tornado warning all over the news but since Mass never got hit I didn’t believe it could happen in my lifetime. So I called my dad and he took me and my son to the barbershop. When we got there it was already hailing and just about half hour later I was watching the news and they were showing a live footage of the tornado. I finished cutting my son’s hair and left trying to get to my family to make sure they were ok. After talking to my brothers I left to my girlfriend’s house. When I got there they were all watching the news scared that it might hit us too. I spoke to them, relaxed them, & then went outside to see the weird looking chaos. It started to rain so I grabbed my girl-friend and went outside to play. We were soak and wet making each other laugh, so when the rain[ed] died out we went inside reliefed knowing the tornado warnings were over. I took a shower and started thinking when this will happen again. Relaxed and thinking I went to sleep.

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My mom had just picked me up from weight lifting after school at like 4:00pm. Then we got home at 4:30 and started doing what we usually do. She bought home pizza so I was just sitting in my room eating. And my mom was doing whatever she was doing in her room. Then at like 4:45 the wind started blowing really hard and because we had all of the windows open the wind started blowing everything around the house. So me and my mom start closeing [sic] the windows and then we heard a crash from her room so she wen t to check it out and I had to finish closeing [sic] the windows. And when I got to the front of the house I looked out the window and saw the tornado and it was crazy because I’ve never seen one before. I honestly didn’t kno[w] what to do but I was kind of scared. But where was it didn’t stay long. The house was ok. We had no power, no service, on our cell phones, and there was a tree leaning on our house. So we though the worse was over. So because we had no power me and my mom were sitten down talking and we can hear people outside screaming and freaking out. So I told my mom that [I] was gonna walk around and look at the neighborhood. All tress were down everywhere and traffic was backed up everywhere. And so many people were freaking out. Then after a while I went home and around 9:30 the house started leaking like crazy and the roof fell in so me and my mom packed some clothes and drove to my uncles house.

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Before the storm came me and my brother was the dentist and the radio as on and they said that there was tornado warnings. We rushed home to my mom and got there just in time before the tornado hit. After the storm I was cared and thinking about what if another one came. I also felt bad for the people who lost their house. During the tornado I seen how the sky changed so many colors and how the tornado destroyed so many things. I seen trees on the ground and also light poles down too. After the storm we turn[e] the T.V on and seen so many buildings down town messed up.

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 6/6/11

I was sitting in my sister’s living room watching Spongebob when all of the sudden the t.v. turns blue and a tornado warning came on. When the tornado came it was me, my niece and brother in law. We were shocked and didn’t know what to do. I couldn’t even move I was in shock. After it was all over I wanted to cry there was debris everywhere and houses crushed under trees. I was happy that me and my family was ok but sad that others had lost so much.

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 June 6, 2011

Before the tornado hit I was sleep with the air conditioner on. While I was sleep I heard things bouncing off the AC, it was hail! I woke up and seen a blue screen on the t.v. that said “Tornado Watch!” I run upstairs and went on Facebook. People w[h]ere writing go in the basement, this might be a sign, and many more stuff. During this I was pacing back and forward to see what I was going to do because I did not have a basement. So then I found out it was downtown not near me. By the way I live in 16 acres…My feelings afterwards was I felt bad for what happen to downtown and thank God that my family and I were still alive.

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June 1, 2011 4:30ish

Around that time I was just getting hone from school. I was home around 3-3:00ish. Usually when I get home and just listen to music so that’s what I did Wednesday afternoon. A few moments laters a man came knocking at my door like a maniac, so now I was pissed; I open the door; it flew open and this man was screaming asking me to get my mom. I was a lil upset that this man who recently [2 days ago] got out of jail was at my door so I walked to my mom’s room irritated and slowly. I told her that this man was at the door so [s]he started walking. I ran by her to go back into the living room when I looked out the back door where I open the door for the man; at that exam moment I saw the tornado. The man yelled to us to get into the bathroom, my mom and sisters ran into the bathroom while my brother and I grab pillows to give to them. my brother waited a the back door and watched the tornado almost kill a lady with a tree while she was puling into her driveway. I watched form the living room window; the trees got plucked from the ground and fall onto the flow with branches & roots intact. I was scared because for the first moment in my life my mom had no way to protect me from harm. After all this was done I picked up the phone to call my grandma who didn’t answer. I called my girlfriend who didn’t answer but texted me to say she was ok and that was on her way t her grandma’s house. I texted and called a couple of friends and they were ok but I was devastated to see trees leaning on Milton Bradley school and huge trees blocking pathways on the road. It was just crazy.

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Clouds turn black. Its gray after, its yellow, its dark out. Horns beeping. Streets are ugly. Rain. Hail. Thunder. Lightning, strong wind. Whats going. On. A tornado in Springfield coming from the Ct. River. The way it formed up something never seen in Springfield. Tornado passes through my hood. As I’m heading home with my right hand man the wind got stronger. My boys brother runs into the house and locks us out playing a joke. We’re screaming open up, scared but funny at the same time. Banging on the door. We turn around and start recording. Bang. Thunder super loud. Crack. Crack. This giant tree falls down hard. The light pole right behind. It fences breaking down. Windows breaking. What a crazy sight. Sky clears up now. Baby blue like nothing every happened. Springfield’s’ disaster because of the tornado.

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The Springfield F3 Tornado 2011

On Wednesday, June 1, 2011 there was a tornado that hit and destroyed a lot of the SouthEnd of Springfield. It was a sight that no believed or thought would ever happen. The tornado happened around 4:30 pm and there was strong wings, rain, hail and even the sky changed colors of green and yellow. When the tornado began to form, I walking home from STCC. It felt crazy when I was walking home, I felt like I wasn’t moving forward because the winds were so strong. I was also getting hit by hail that was about the size of nickels. It was a sight that I couldn’t believe. Everyone believed that no tornado was going to happen even though there were warnings about the tornado on the T.V. all day. Then, the tornado hit and destroyed a lot of downtown including people’s homes and stores. Many people lost things. It’s horrible what happened and I am very thankful it didn’t affect me.