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THE FORENSIC FRONT

Official Newsletter of Forensic Weather Consultants

[Www.WeatherConsultants.Com](http://www.weatherconsultants.com)

FALL 2005

NEW DOPPLER RADAR IMAGES INCLUDED IN MOST CASES

NEED TO KNOW *PRECISELY* IF IT WAS RAINING OR SNOWING AND WHEN IT STOPPED? Now with our new color Doppler radar pictures that we include at no additional cost, we can zoom in over any town or highway to see if and exactly when rain or snow was falling. Doppler Radar pictures are taken about every 6 minutes, so we can now determine with high accuracy if it rained or snowed at a particular time, and when it stopped. “We are now incorporating Doppler Radar Pictures into most of our cases because they are so precise,” says Howard Altschule, President of Forensic Weather Consultants. “These images take weather analysis to the next level and show us exactly what the weather was at an exact location, not just the closest airport. Combining these images with the other weather records we provide makes our determinations very precise and extremely detailed.”

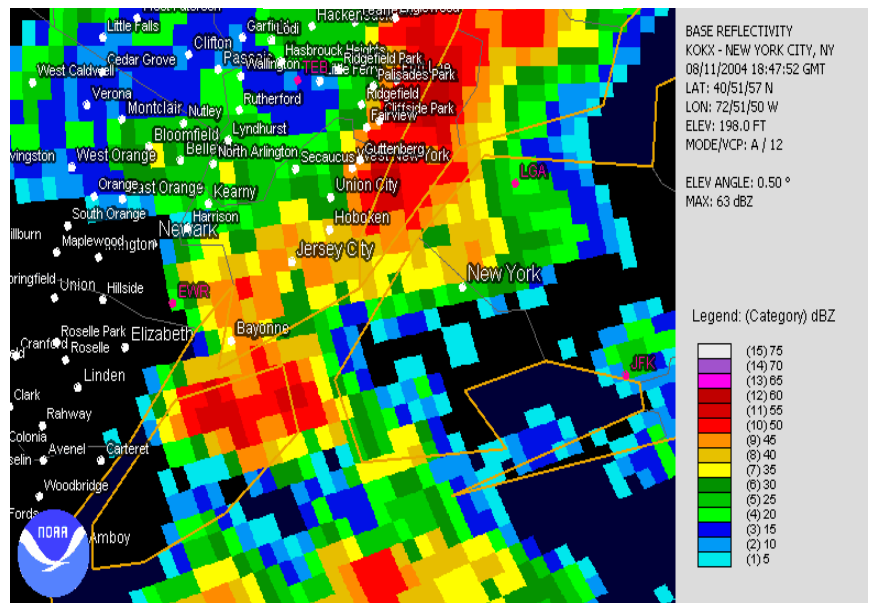
EXAMPLE: Slip and Fall Case

While trying to determine the weather conditions for a slip and fall accident, the weather records we obtained showed dry weather at the nearby airport with no snow accumulation. Once we obtained the Doppler Radar pictures, we were able to zoom in right over the town the accident occurred and found that a very localized lake effect snow band was dropping several inches of snow per hour. Without the radar pictures, we would not have been able to get such detailed information. “All too many times, people rely only on the weather conditions at the closest airport when it is not the same 5 miles away,” says Altschule. These Doppler Radars are much more precise and made an enormous difference in this case.

EXAMPLE: Motor Vehicle Accident

While determining the weather conditions during a fatal car accident, we learned that the driver of the vehicle claimed there was light drizzle falling while the State Police officers on scene said there were torrential downpours. The argument was that the operator of the vehicle was driving too fast for the weather conditions. By obtaining Doppler Radar pictures and zooming them in over the accident location, we were able to determine that the rain was falling very heavily at the time of the accident and for several hours beforehand. These color Doppler Radar images clearly supported the police officers’ accounts and did not support the claims made by the driver of the vehicle.

DOPPLER RADAR IMAGE





**Howard Altschule
President**

Testimonial:

*“Howard,
Thank you for
providing weather
analysis in my case.
Your help was
essential, and I don't
believe we could
have won the case
without your input. I
highly recommend
your services.”
-Bruce*

- ◆ WEATHER RECORDS
- ◆ WRITTEN REPORTS
- ◆ EXPERT TESTIMONY
- ◆ ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES
- ◆ FAST TURNAROUND
- ◆ REASONABLE PRICES

A MESSAGE FROM HOWARD ALTSCHULE

As President of Forensic Weather Consultants, I have the pleasure of telling you about the new and improved services that we are now providing. So far, 2005 continues to be one of the busiest years ever as many attorneys from all parts of the country are calling on us to help them with their cases. We have recently taken on some cases in the Caribbean as the

never-ending list of hurricanes continues to pound the area. We are also seeing many more lightning strike cases as the summer's heat and humidity fire off many big thunderstorms. As you have read on the previous page, we now offer precise Color Doppler Radar pictures that would look incredible in any courtroom. These radars have been instrumental

in so many cases because of their precision and the fact that we can zoom in right over the area of the accident. As we continue through the rest of the year, we will be rolling out new and improved ways in which we can help your case. If you haven't spoken with us before, give us a call to see how we can help and why more and more attorneys are

NEW LIGHTNING DETECTION REPORTS

Another service that we are expanding is our lightning detection service. Since Florida is the lightning capital of the world, those attorneys in Florida and the Southeast with lightning strike cases should definitely give us a call. Through an array of sensors

scattered across the U.S., we now have the capability to determine if cloud to ground lightning struck a particular location. By entering a street address and timeframe to search, we can determine exactly how many lightning strikes occurred, how far

away they were, the time each strike occurred (to the second), and the strength of the bolt. **Below is just a small sampling of the report.** Using this data and a plotted map, we'll tell you if lightning struck the location of your Accident.

Small Part of a Typical Lightning Report

Start Time 07/02/2004 00:00:00 EDT
End Time 07/03/2004 00:00:00 EDT
Location 1000 E. South St.; Orlando FL **Search Radius** 5.00 miles

Number of strikes detected: 2879

Date/Time	Latitude	Longitude	kA	Bearing	Range
07/02/2004 16:25:46.446 EDT	28.538	-81.368	-13.7	258.5	0.1
07/02/2004 16:27:28.600 EDT	28.537	-81.367	-9.2	227.3	0.1
07/02/2004 16:34:09.163 EDT	28.538	-81.365	-7.3	104.8	0.1
07/02/2004 16:41:11.121 EDT	28.539	-81.367	-8.3	310.1	0.1



LONG TERM WEATHER FORECAST

2005 has seen record-breaking weather. Hurricane Dennis developed as a depression in the southeastern Caribbean Sea on July 4th. Dennis was the 4th named storm and this was the earliest date on record for four named storms to have formed in the Atlantic Ocean. Dennis made landfall in south-central Cuba on the 8th as a category 4 hurricane, the strong-

est hurricane on record for so early in the season. This was only the beginning.

By now you know that Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated many parts of the Gulf Coast. Reaching Category 5 strength prior to landfall, these storms caused extensive destruction as they fed off the 90 degree+ water in the Gulf.

The Atlantic Hurricane season ends on November 30th. That means there is still time for more hurricanes to form and all eyes will be out at sea. Things are expected to change as the upcoming winter is starting to look very cold and snowy. Places in the Northeast U.S. should prepare for a return to old man Winter by early November.



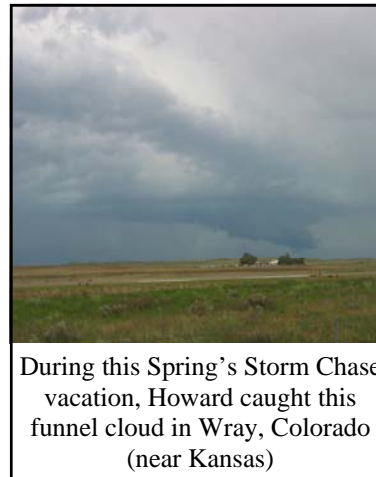
As A Hobby, Howard Chases Severe Thunderstorms At Home & In Tornado Alley. This One In New York Had Marble Sized Hail & 60+ MPH Winds!!

FORENSIC WEATHER FACT

By Howard Altschule

The National Weather Service now has many Automated Weather Systems monitoring the weather (ASOS). Unfortunately, these systems are not fool-proof and sometimes report blowing snow & snow from snow blow-

ers as light snow falling. This kind of discrepancy can make or break a case. Certain sky condition reports, precipitation markers and Doppler Radar pictures can tell us if snow was really falling or not.



During this Spring's Storm Chase vacation, Howard caught this funnel cloud in Wray, Colorado (near Kansas)

Testimonial:

"Your report and supporting data and research were thorough, and you gave a nice deposition. Please do not hesitate to give my name as a reference. I think that we plaintiffs' attorneys need to think about using weather experts more frequently and certainly whenever weather is a key factor in the events causing a disaster."

Mitch Lambros, Esq.

CASES FROM THE FORENSIC WEATHER FILES

by Howard Altschule

A bad MVA occurred on a major New York road causing devastating injuries to an infant in the car. The vehicle hit a patch of snow that had accumulated on the road because of blowing and drifting

snow. This was an ongoing problem and road crews were well aware of the hazardous condition. As part of our analysis and report, we advised counsel that this blowing and drifting snow was

occurring many hours and days prior to the accident and that no new snow had fallen that day. Our records and reports help demonstrate that this was a recurring condition and not a recent snowfall.

