



National Agricultural Library

Tornado

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Twister: Not Just a
Party Game Anymore

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FLICC/CENDI: Business Continuation and Disaster Recovery

September 24, 2001

A family of tornadoes cut a destructive path from Culpeper, VA, to Laurel, MD. One of the tornadoes killed two sisters,

ages 23 and 20, as it cut a swath across the University of Maryland campus. About 50 people were injured and damage totaled many millions to the university, to the National Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, to Laurel High School, and to hundreds of homes.

The F-Scale rating was probably F3.



From The Tornado Project Online:
www.tornadoproject.com



Topics

- Damage
- Communication
- Power
- Funding
- Clean Up
- Accomplishments
- Lessons Learned

Damage



- Landscape
- Building
- Vehicles





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Communication

- Weather Radio
- Public Address System
- Telephones
- Are we closed? Are we open?
- Timeline



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Cost/Funding

- BIG Windows
- End of Fiscal Year
- Operations Impact



Clean Up



- 1st 8 hours
 - Assess damage
 - Emergency repairs
- 1st 4 days
 - Triage and external clean up
- 1st 6 months
 - Staff clean up of stacks
 - Contractor clean up of stacks





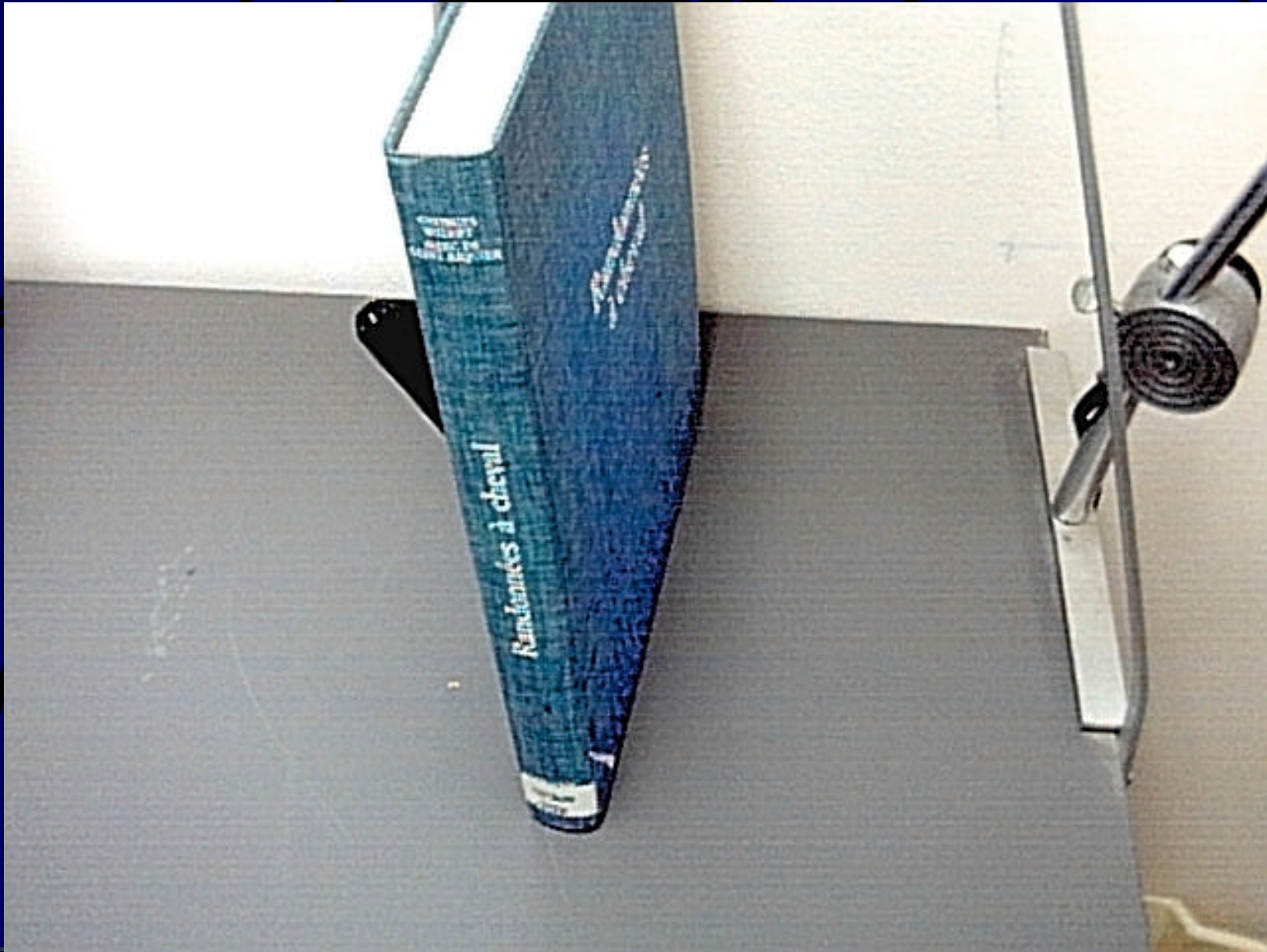
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Post-Tornado Accomplishments

- Continuity of Operations Plan
- Disaster Recovery Operations Manual
 - Facility, Collection, Computers/Networking
- Tornado Evacuation Plan
- Equipped basement with TV
- Computer Room on backup generator



Lessons Learned

- Establish alternate lines of communication
- Know the limitations of your generator
- Communicate with staff often and in person
- Track disaster-related expenditures
- Hire tireless self-starters with ingenuity
- Keep all communications positive