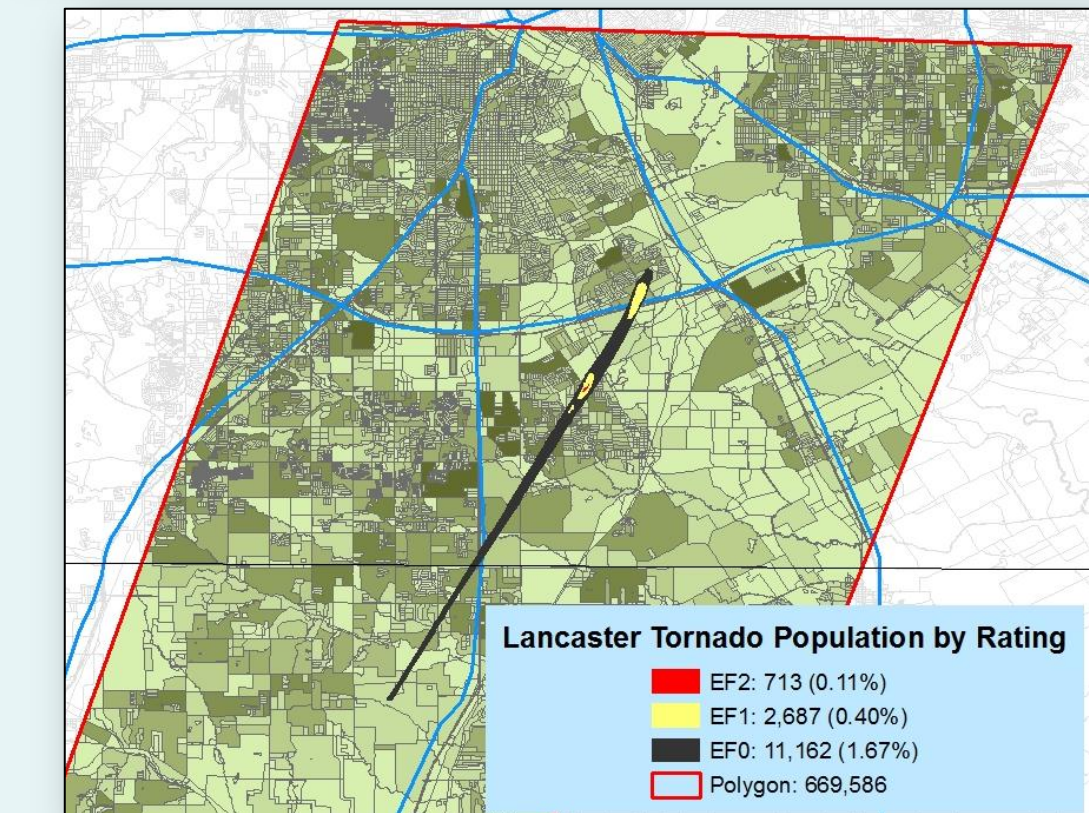
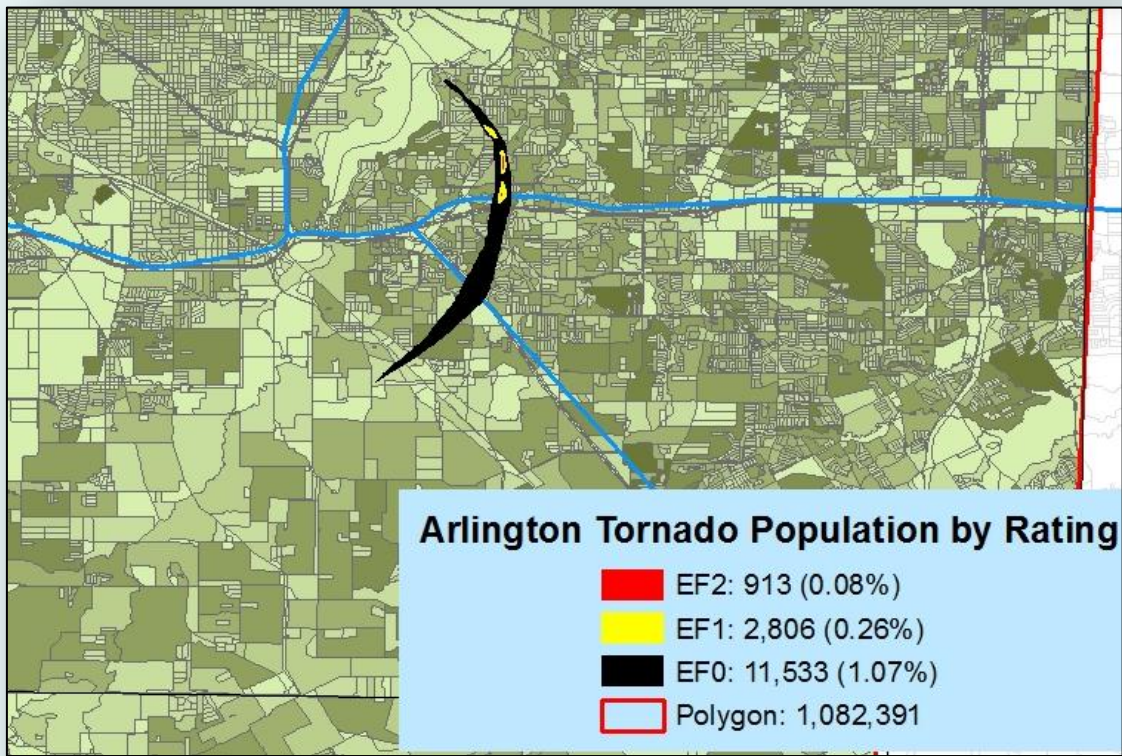
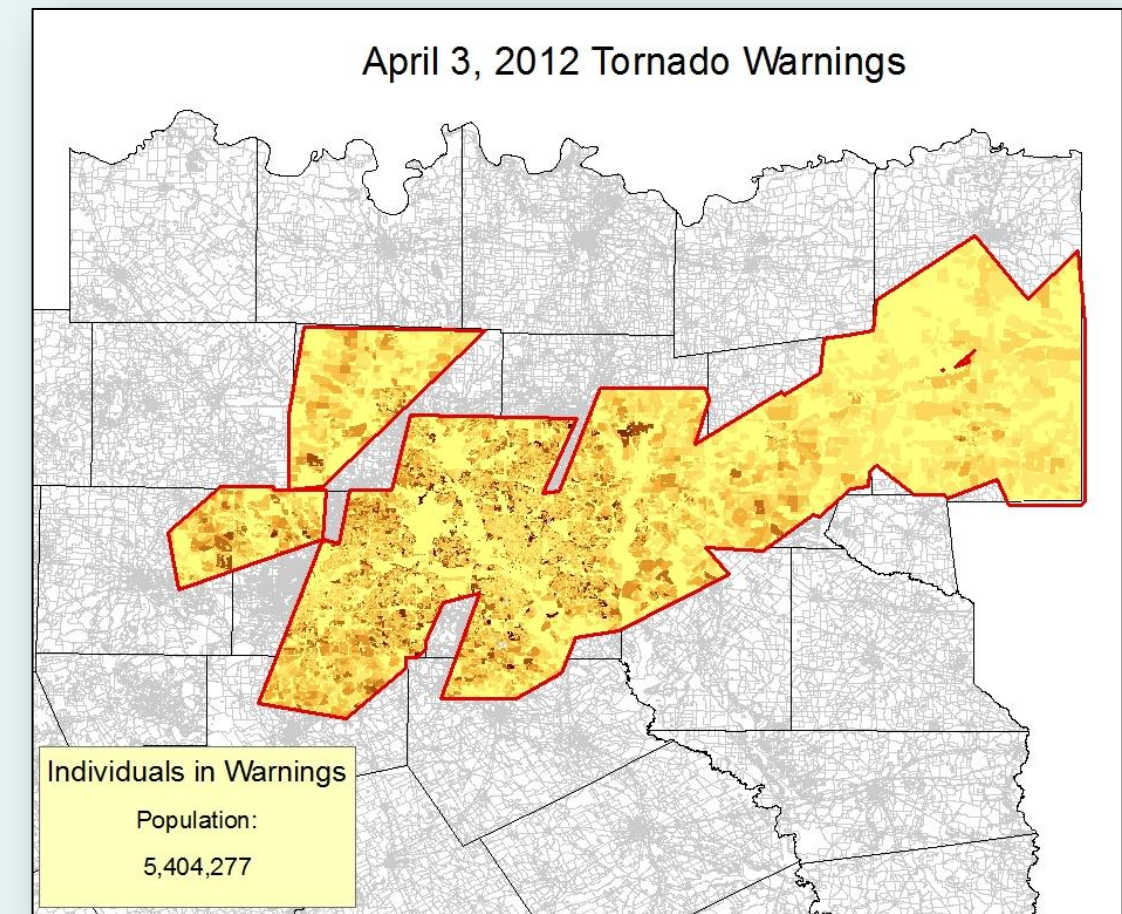


3 April 2012 Event Summary

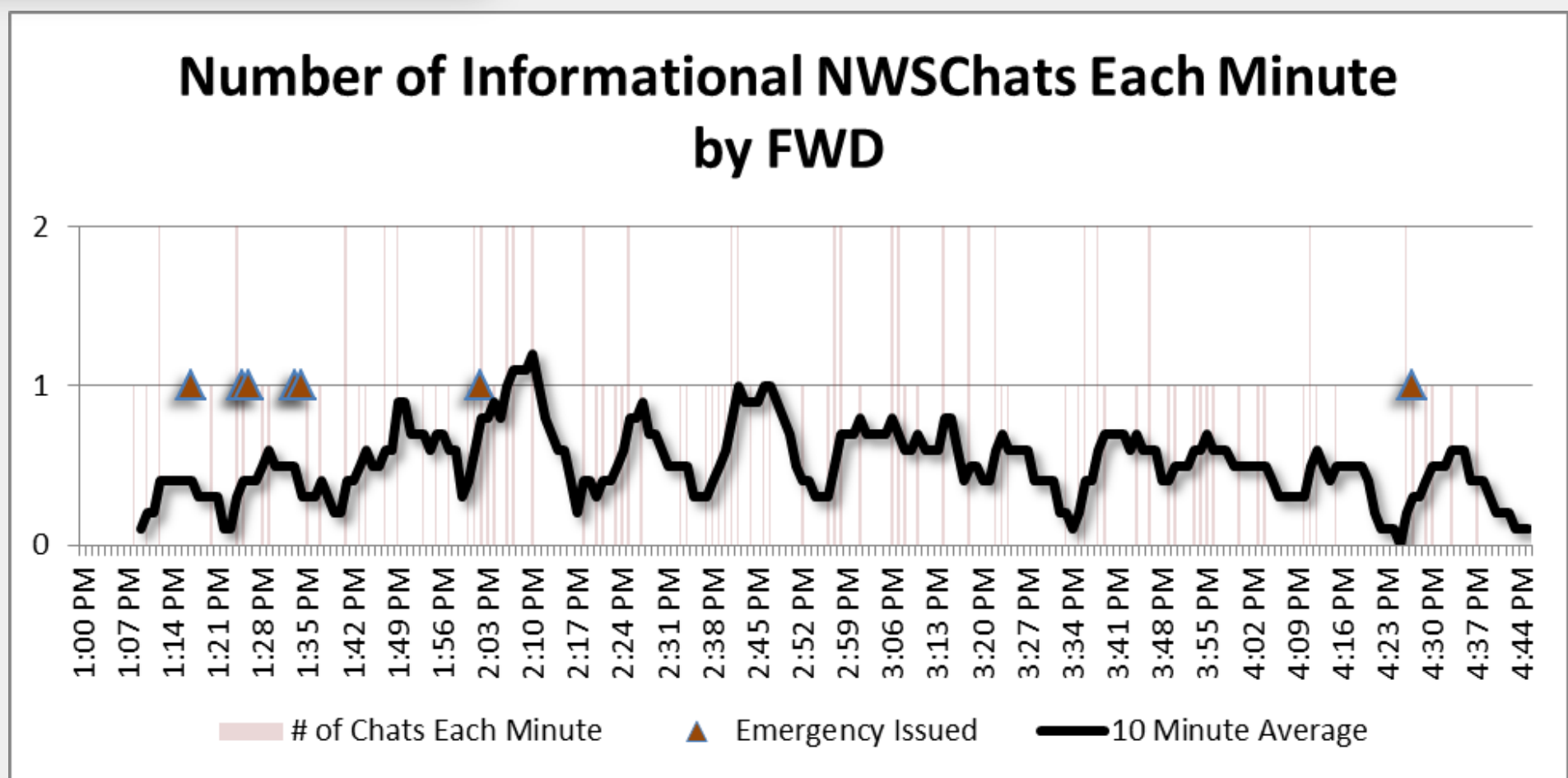
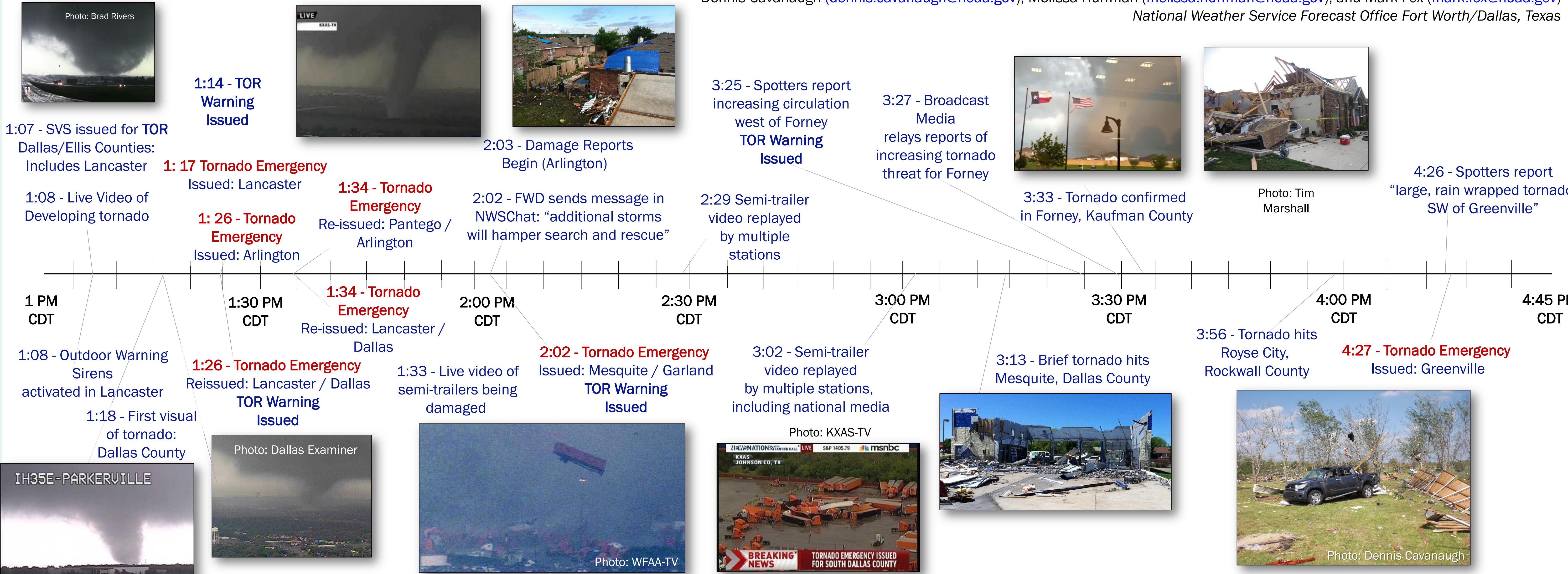
- 20 tornadoes in north and northeast Texas
- 3 EF-2 and 1 EF-3 affected DFW Metroplex
- 5.4 Million people in tornado warnings
- 0 fatalities / 29 injuries
- \$800 million in damages
- Tracked live on television



- Maps show population density and tornado warnings
- Black, and yellow swaths are the surveyed tornado tracks.
- Population data extracted from 2010 U.S. Census blocks
- Tornadoes hit highly populated areas

The 3 April 2012 Tornado Outbreak: An Analysis of the North Texas Integrated Warning Team

Dennis Cavanaugh (dennis.cavanaugh@noaa.gov), Melissa Huffman (melissa.huffman@noaa.gov), and Mark Fox (mark.fox@noaa.gov)
National Weather Service Forecast Office Fort Worth/Dallas, Texas



Average time for broadcast media to relay Tornado Emergency Message

When "Tornado Emergency" mentioned in NWSChat: 2.7 minutes

When "Tornado Emergency" not mentioned in NWSChat: 4.0 minutes*

*Two Tornado Emergencies never mentioned

WFO Fort Worth / Dallas (FWD) Use of NWSChat (1:00 PM to 4:45 PM)

- 130 individual messages
- Averaged approximately 1 message per minute
- nwsbot relayed 184 text product issuance
- 21% of FWD's messages relayed by broadcast media within 1 minute
- 43% of FWD's urgent messages relayed in the same minute as the information was written



Conclusions

- Effective and frequent communication amongst members of the IWT is essential to presenting a consistent warning message
- NWSChat is heavily relied upon for situational awareness by media, and offers an effective way for the NWS to convey urgency and severity of hazardous weather threats.
- Reasons given for a lack of fatalities (by IWT members):
 - Broadcast Media relayed consistent information and displayed dramatic coverage of the threat
 - Residential areas primarily damaged, many residents were at work or school and not in their homes when tornadoes struck
 - Emergency Management able to make decisions rapidly
 - Integrated Warning Team Performed Well
 - NWS issued good warnings

