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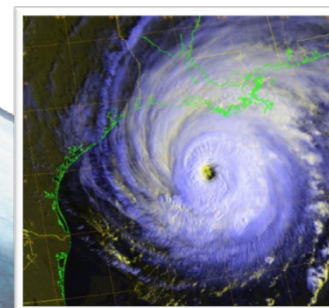
Atmospheric and  
Environmental Research

# 2013 Ratemaking and Product Management Severe Weather Workshop

March 11, 2013

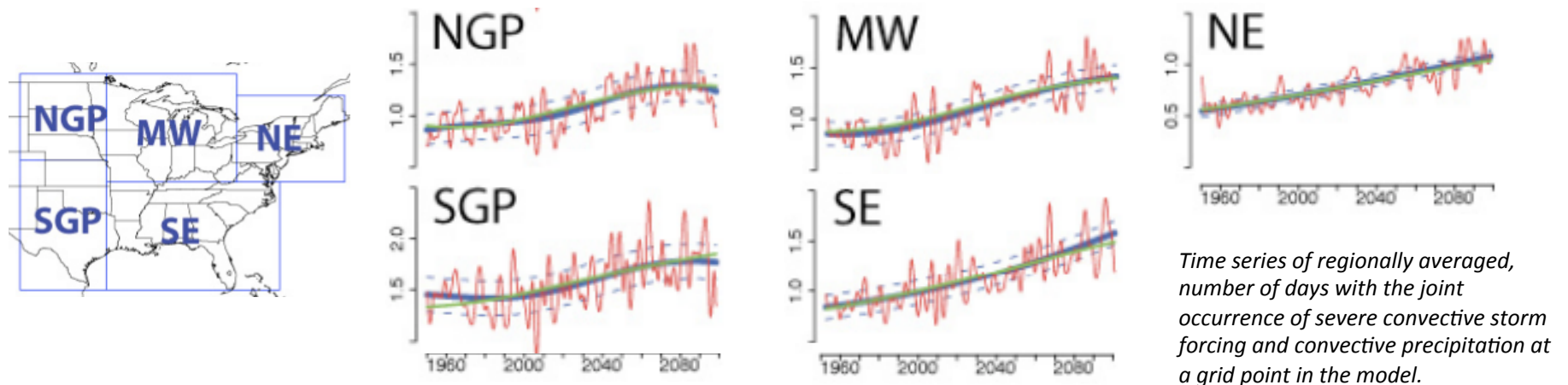
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# Climate Model Simulations<sup>1</sup> Indicate Possible Future Trend in Mean Occurrence Rate of Storms

- The number of days upon which significant severe winds, hail or tornadoes could occur smoothly trend upward<sup>2</sup>
- Impact in model primarily due to low-level “humidification”



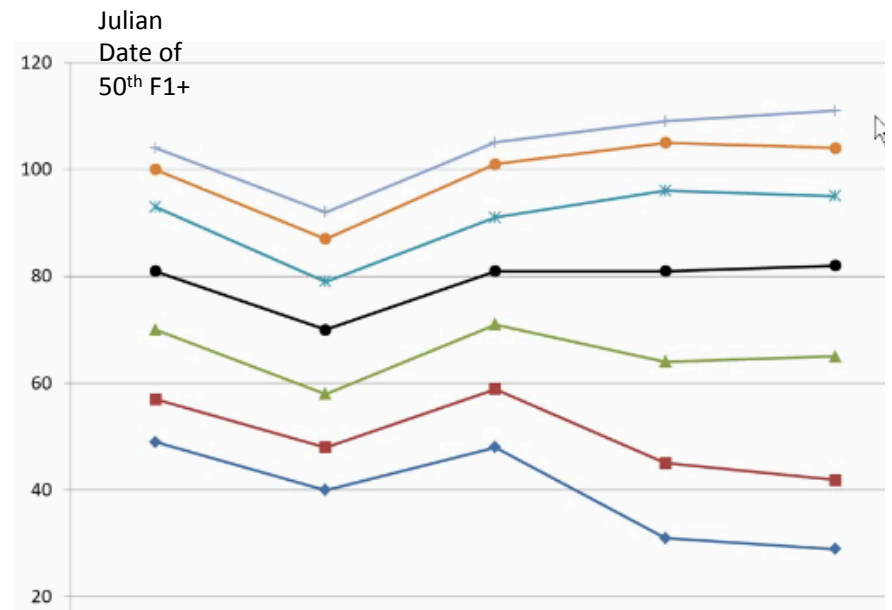
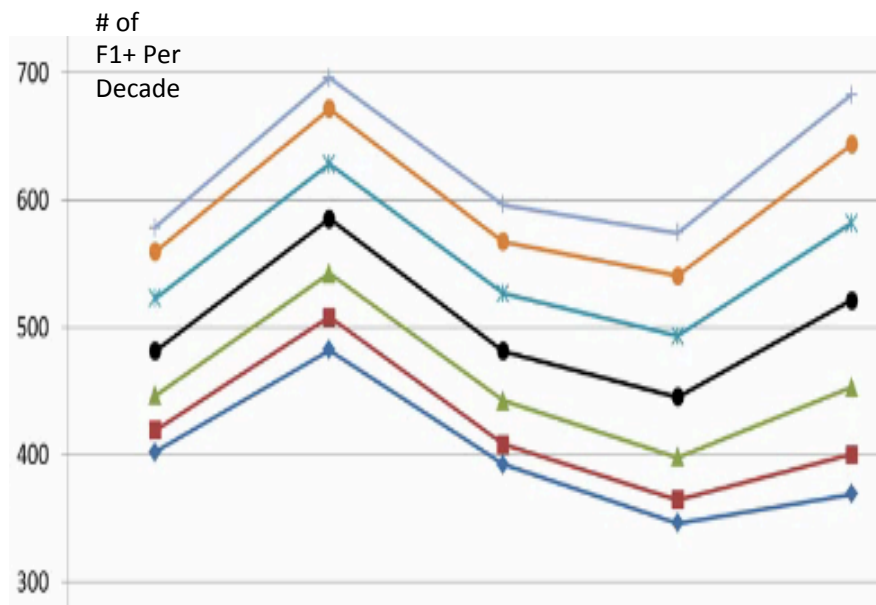
## Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup>Trapp et al. (2009), Geophysical Research Letters (GRL)

<sup>2</sup>A1B IPCC climate scenario

# Analysis<sup>3</sup> of Historical Tornado Reports Indicates Changes in the Variance are Now Detectable

- Number of tornadoes per decade<sup>4</sup> (left) and the day of the year when tornado season “begins” (right) has become more varied



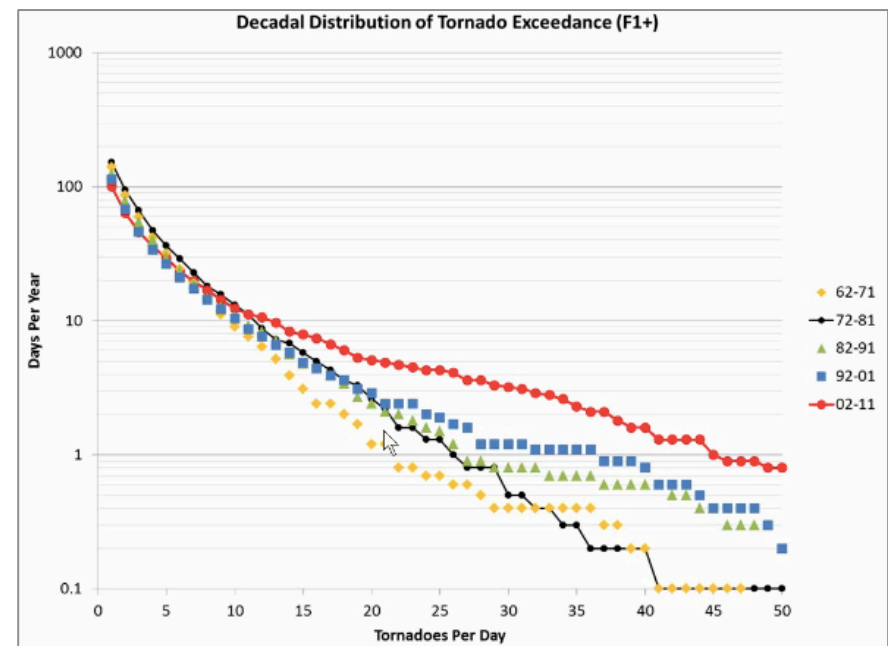
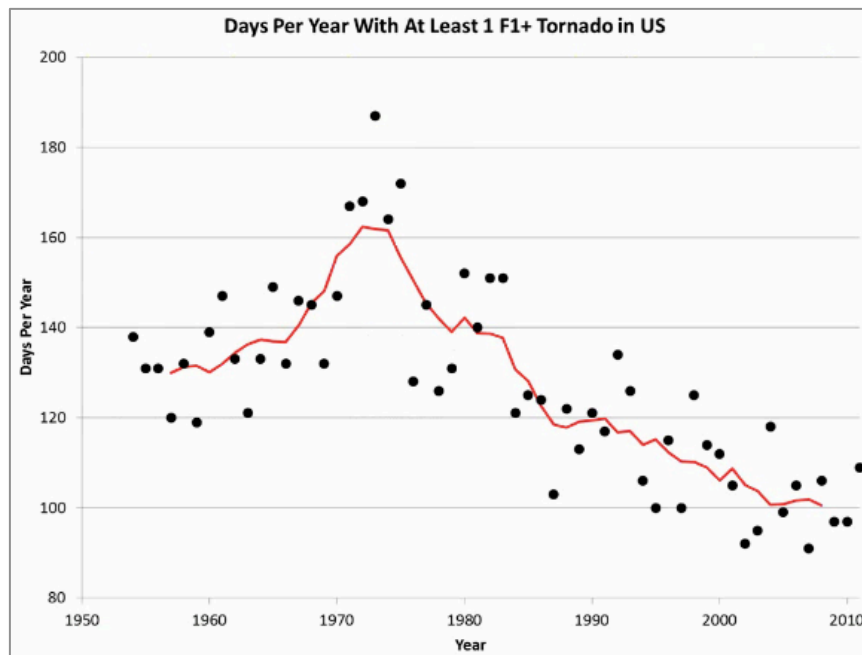
## Footnotes:

<sup>3</sup>Brooks et al. (2012), 26<sup>th</sup> SLS Conference

<sup>4</sup>Results of a 1,000 year statistical simulation of tornado days

# Analysis<sup>5</sup> of Number of Tornadoes Per Day Indicates Large Tornado Outbreaks are Becoming the Norm

- Average decrease in the number of tornado days per year<sup>6</sup> since the 1970s (left)
- Average increase in the number of tornadoes per day since the 1970s (right)



## Footnotes:

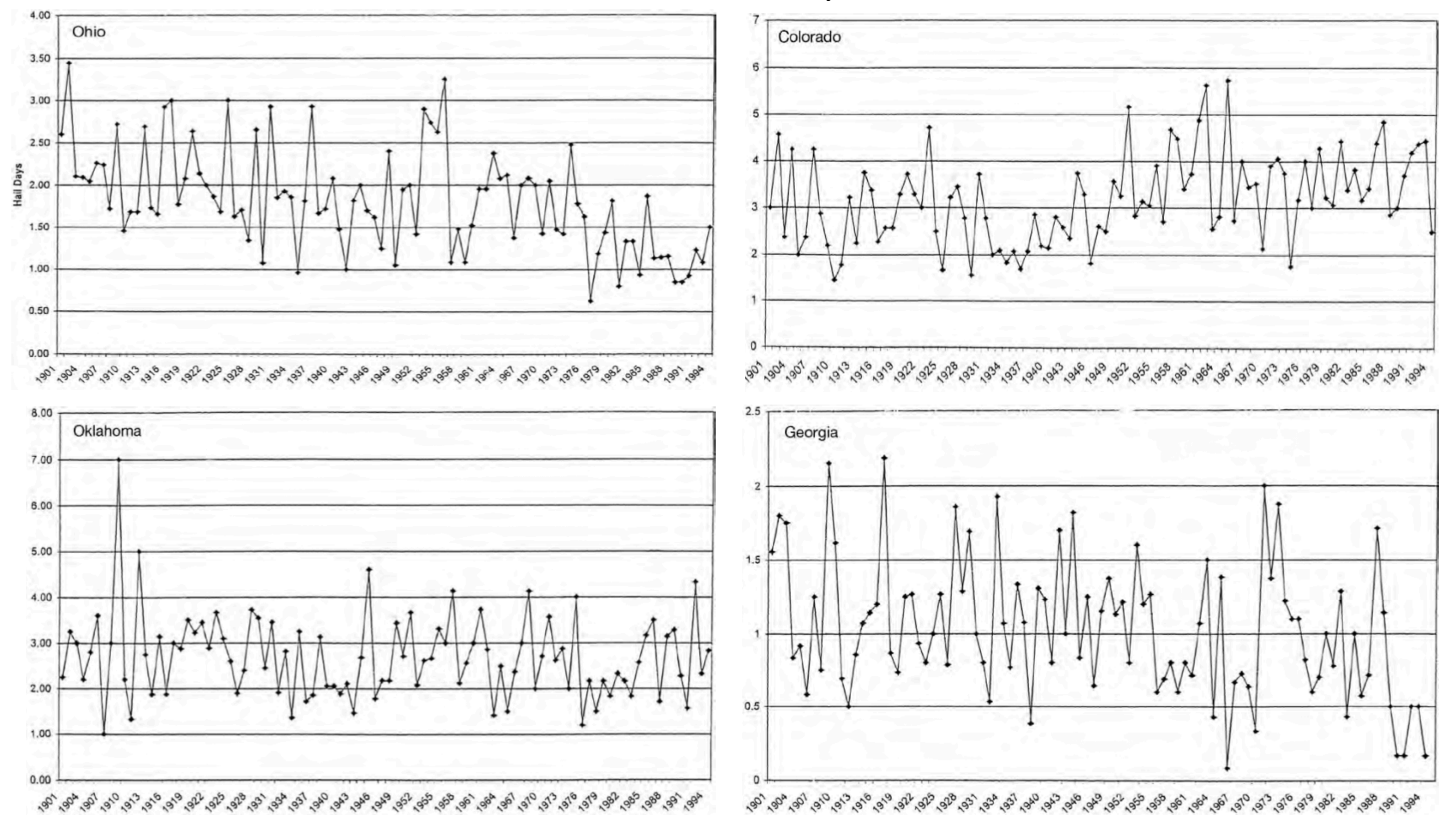
<sup>5</sup>Brooks et al. (2012), 26<sup>th</sup> SLS Conference

<sup>6</sup>Based on NOAA's Storm Data database from 1955 to 2011

# NOAA Observing Station Datasets<sup>7</sup> Provide Longest Record of Ground-Verified Hail Occurrences in U.S.

- NOAA station records<sup>8</sup> provide valuable climate information to complement traditional storm spotter datasets

Annual number of hail days, 1901-1995

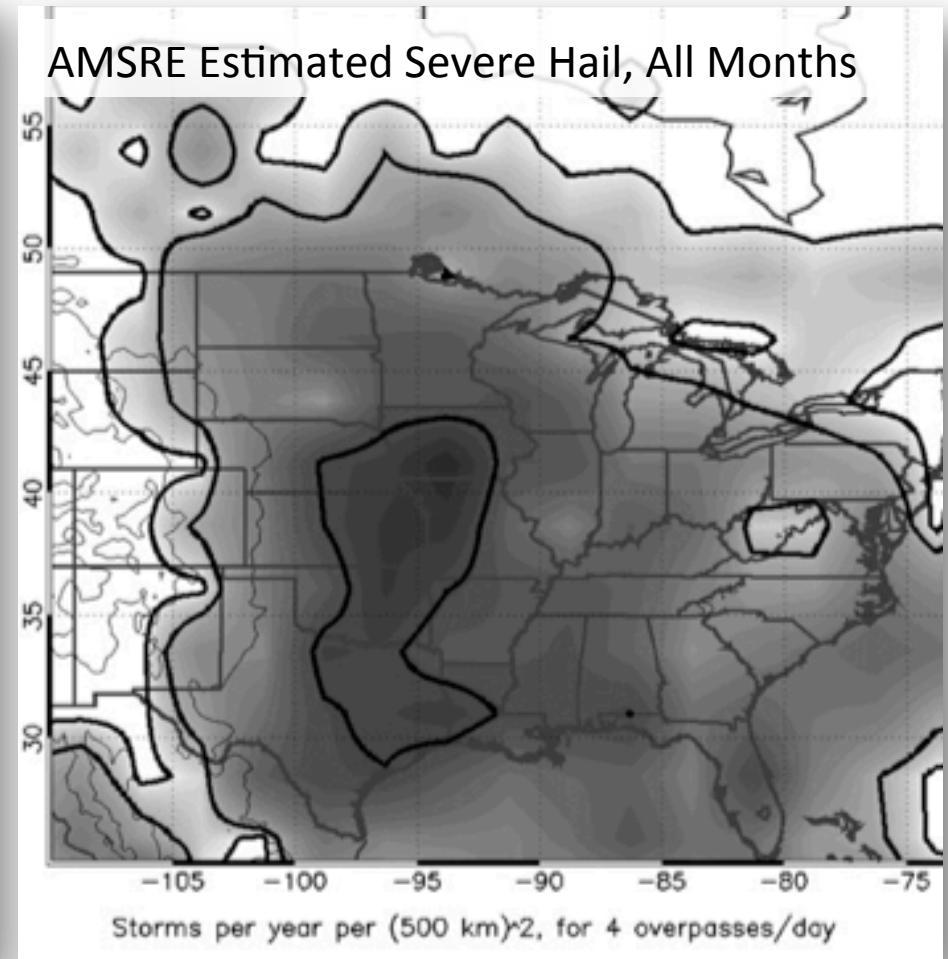
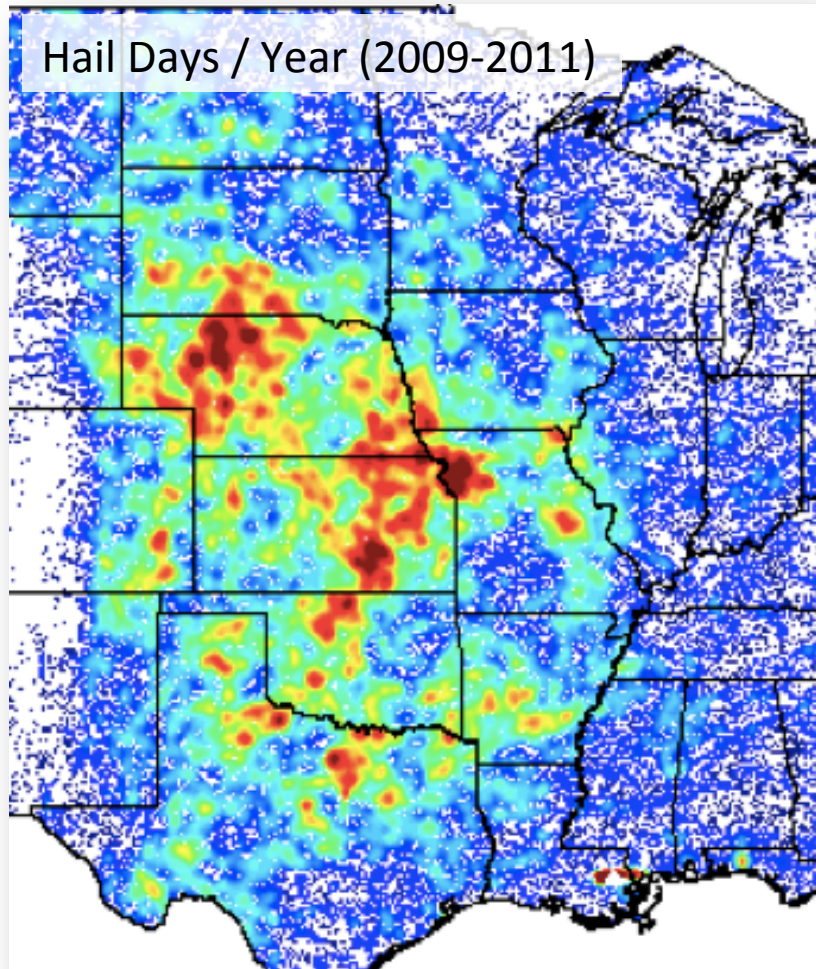


## Footnotes:

<sup>7</sup>Changnon et al. (2009), Illinois Water Survey

<sup>8</sup>Based on days with hail observations from selected NOAA observing stations

# Remote Sensing<sup>9,10</sup> Provides 20 Years of High-Precision Data to Place Long-Run History in a Modern Context



**Footnotes:**

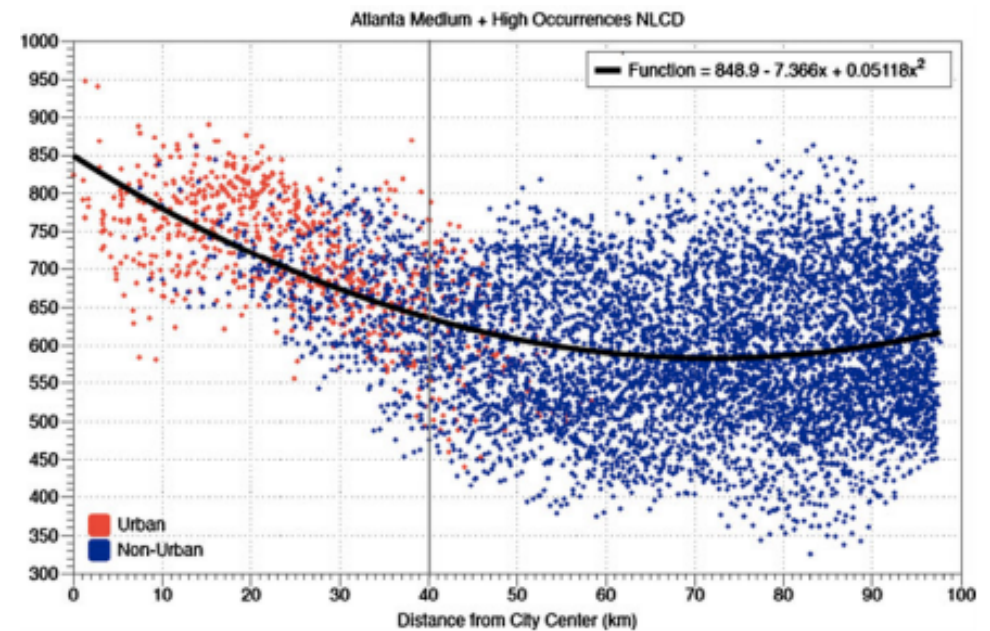
<sup>9</sup>AER Benchmark™ Database

<sup>10</sup>Cecil & Blankenship (2012)

# Urban Environmental Also Result Changes in Strong Storm Frequency<sup>11</sup>

- Increased thunderstorm signatures on radar in urban area shown by dark orange shading

Radar climatology on strong t-storm days during westerly flow



## Footnotes:

<sup>11</sup>Ashley et. Al (2011)