

Interview conducted by Shane Pendleton (National Weather Service Volunteer)

Responses below are to the following questions:

*Tell me a little about that day and the events leading up to the tornado. What were you busy with that day? Do you remember what the weather was like in the morning and early afternoon?

*Where were you when you received the news about the tornado? What did everyone do? What did you do?

*Where were you during the passage of the tornado? Did you ever see or hear it?

*What did you do immediately after the storm cleared?

*Briefly describe the days that followed. What was the weather like? What did that region of Huntsville look like? How long did recovery efforts take?

Interviewee: Elizabeth Riggle:

I was living in Charleston Oaks Apartments in Madison, Alabama. I remember the weather being unusually warm for November the day the tornado touched down in Huntsville.

I was in my apartment [when I heard about the tornado]. I had been reading most of the day. I remember turning the TV and watching the weather until we lost power. I remember being worried that my husband Bob was at work at Intergraph when the tornado hit and wished he was with me. I remember praying that Bob was okay at work. We had only lived in Alabama since May 11, 1989. I did not see or hear the tornado.

I remember I spent a lot of time hanging out in my apartment after the storm cleared. I remember we had no phone and it took awhile to notify our families in Kentucky that we were okay. All the lines that had not been destroyed by the storm were busy. We finally were able to get through to our families using a pay phone at the K-mart in Madison that was near our apartment.

In the days that followed I remember reading the Huntsville Times and seeing the pictures of the damage in Huntsville and eventually TV coverage. Parts of Huntsville looked like a war zone. So much had just been leveled to the ground. There were many people that had been on the roads when the tornado hitting since it was during rush hour. The initial recovery efforts took quite some time.