

## **Southeast Tornado MAT**

### **Daily Report**

**Thursday 12MAY2011**

#### **OVERVIEW:**

The field teams for the MAT deployed to the following areas: Tuscaloosa, AL, Webster Chapel, AL and Jacksonville, AL. The map at the end denotes where the teams traveled. Notable findings from the teams are provided below. This is the last day of field operations for the MAT.

#### **OBSERVATIONS:**

##### Tuscaloosa, AL

The shopping center that had several national tenants suffered some of the worst damage in the tornado path. The buildings were constructed from Unreinforced masonry and supported bar joist metal deck roof systems. The Chucky Cheese tenant did not have a total collapse. Upon close inspection, there were several cracks and indications that the building was still severely damaged and compromised. The photos below show several stages of what appears to be failure pattern. The first phase is wall buckling and movement away from the bond beam, second phase is complete buckling and bond beam becomes unsupported, third phase is total loss of wall and then loss of roof.



**Tuscaloosa, AL: Adjacent to Chucky Cheese. This photo shows a pattern of failure.**



**Tuscaloosa, AL: Hobby Lobby. This structural mezzanine was the only location that did not suffer complete collapse for this big box store.**



**Tuscaloosa, AL: An above ground safe room directly in the path of the tornado. The slab had been cleaned but the damage in the surrounding area shows the complete destruction of the neighborhood.**

## **Webster Chapel**

The Calhoun County EMA has extensive siren warning system in place due to CESP program. Emergency warning systems are located in all towns of Calhoun County and all residents receive public alert radios as part of CESP program. According to the AEMA, the warning systems helped to minimize fatalities in the area.

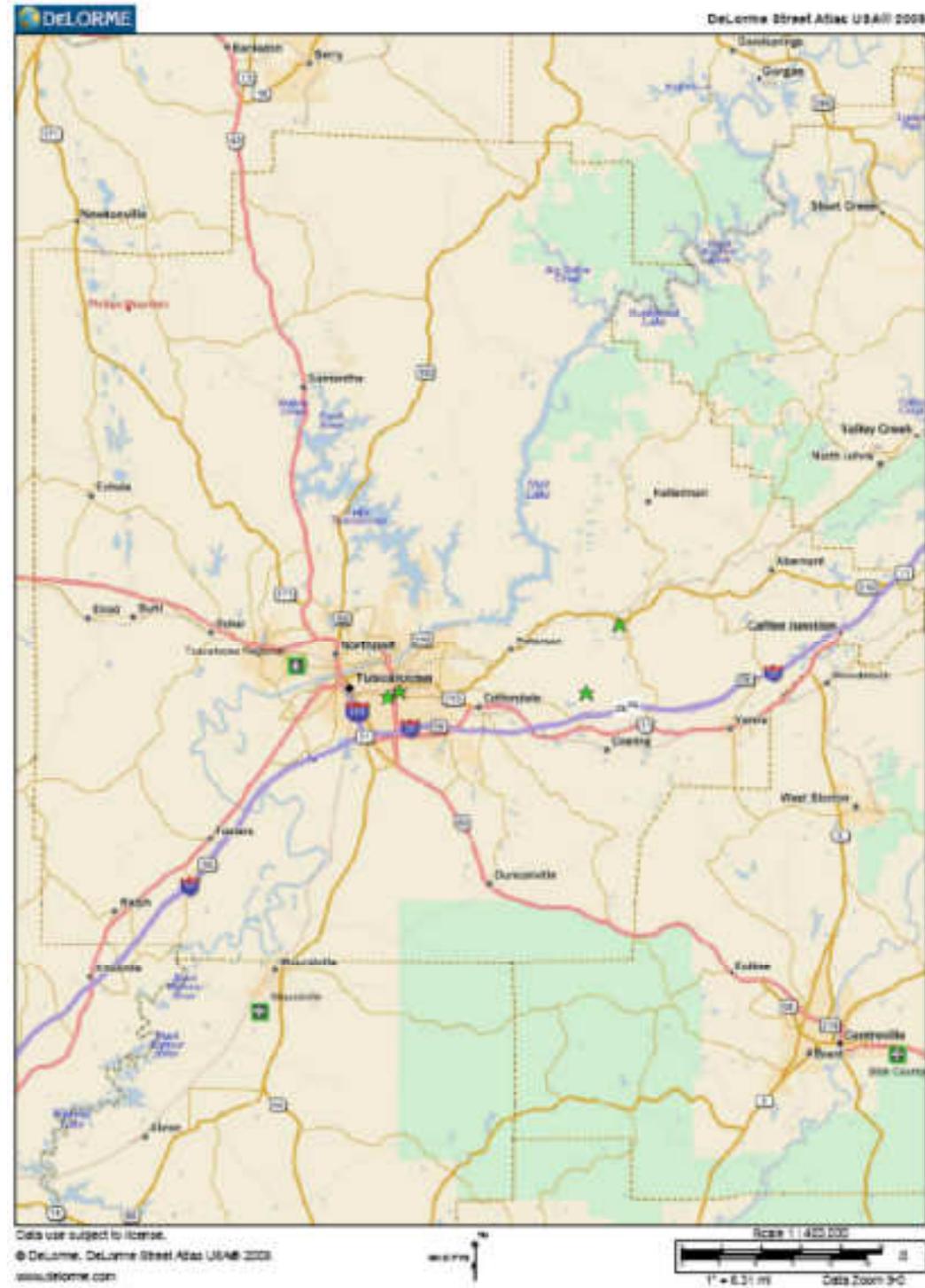


**Webster Chapel, AL: Calhoun County Emergency Management Agency**

The Webster Chapel Fire Department structure was originally an elementary school and had been retrofitted to serve as primary fire station. The right wing at apparatus bay was severely damaged, causing loss of roof and collapse of exterior load bearing walls. Walls were made of unreinforced CMU and roof system was wood framing. There was no shelter area within the fire station. Personnel evacuated to church across the street.



**Location: Webster's Chapel Fire Department (Webster's Chapel, AL)**



Map showing site locations of MAT field team visits on May 10, 2011. Sites visited were in Tuscaloosa, Webster Chapel, and isolated safe room locations in between.