

Remembering the deadly 1953 central Mass. tornado

By Spectrum News Staff Worcester

PUBLISHED 6:39 PM ET Jun. 09, 2023

WORCESTER, Mass. – Friday marks the 70th anniversary of the F4 tornado that killed more than 90 people in central Massachusetts.

The storm tore through a 48-mile path killing, 94 and injuring nearly 1,300 more. The tornado was on the ground for 84 minutes and hit Worcester and several surrounding towns on June 9, 1953. In Worcester, the Burncoat and Great Brook Valley neighborhoods were leveled.

Kathy Lundstrom's father lived on Longmeadow Avenue in Worcester and was able to capture footage of the damage left behind.

"When he went into the house the wind picked up," Lundstrom said. "They didn't know what was going on. They had never heard of a tornado in Worcester. They went to the basement and were halfway downstairs when wind stopped, it was very fast. He looked outside and grabbed camera and started taking film of the damage and what happened."

Lundstrom said she's since become more interested in the weather after hearing her father's stories and is a certified storm watcher.

A memorial to the 94 victims stands at Quinsigamond Community College. It's the former campus of Assumption College, which was damaged in the storm.