EMS Annual Meeting Abstracts
Vol. 8, EMS2011-566, 2011
11th EMS / 10th ECAM

Forecasting the weather
- ensemble techniques
in probabilistic weather prediction

Tornadoes in the Czech Lands based on documentary evidence: A.D. 1119–2010

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Tornadoes belong to the most important small-scale severe weather phenomena causing damage in the local/regional scale. Interest in their study in the Czech Republic increased significantly in the 1990s–2000s thanks to activities of several colleagues from the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute (http://old.chmi.cz/torn). Based on documentary evidence it was possible to create a long-term chronology of tornadoes in the Czech Lands starting with the first such case recorded for 30 July 1119 in Prague. All analysed events were classified with respect to their type (tornado – proved occurrence, tornado – probable occurrence), damage extent and character (victims, damage in forest etc.) and intensity according to the Fujita's scale (F0 to F5). Number of studied cases increases from the past to the present being dependent on existence of different documentary sources (e.g., newspapers belong to the most important sources). Distribution of tornadoes during the year (maximum in June–August) and according to their intensity (mainly F1) and damage (mainly considerably damaged and destroyed buildings) is presented. Spatial distribution of tornadoes is shown on maps for every century. Results obtained are compared with those from other papers related to Central Europe.