On May 22, 2019, a tornado strengthened from an EF-2 to an EF-3 as it moved into a subdivision off of Heritage Highway just west of US Highway 54 and just outside the city limits of Jefferson City. The tornado caused a complete collapse of a residential home and the complete destruction of sixteen mobile homes at Twin Bridges Mobile Home Village. The mobile home community was never rebuilt. As the tornado moved northeast into Jefferson City it destroyed and greatly damaged Braun Storage Unit Complex and car dealership. The tornado left a three-mile path of destruction from Christy Drive toward the Missouri River. The tornado remained on the ground for several minutes before moving out of the city. Every business from the intersection of Ellis Boulevard and Christy Drive and going south on Christy Drive suffered significant damage such as roofs torn off, parts of walls collapsing, windows blown out, and trees and power poles were snapped off. The businesses affected included Burger King, Best Western Inn, Capital Bowl, and Riley Chevrolet (where at least 750 vehicles were totaled). The Special Olympics Missouri Training for Life facility was also hit with part of its roof blown off.

Some of the most extensive damage was on Ellis Boulevard. A Break Time and Sonic Drive-In suffered severe structural damage. The Firley YMCA lost a wall from the tornado impact. Hawthorne Apartments on Ellis Boulevard also took a hit. The apartment complex had parts of roofs torn off buildings, windows broken out, and other significant damage. Sixty-four units were lost resulting in eight-eight unit buildings being demolished. The tornado uprooted and tossed trees, snapped telephone poles, and displaced numerous families.

The EF-3 tornado hit some of the most densely built neighborhoods. Including homes along Woodlawn Avenue, Hickory Street, East Dunklin Street, Jackson Street, Mesa Avenue, and Holiday Drive. Trees were blown into homes and in some cases, whole roofs were lifted off. Almost every property between Adams and Cherry Street was damaged. Jackson Street which is between Stadium Blvd and Dunklin St is where the tornado laid a destructive path that damaged many properties. Before the tornado dissipated at the Missouri River, the tornado severely damaged the historic gem of Capitol Avenue. Two walls on the Missouri State Penitentiary site also collapsed due to the storm.

The tornado shed new light on the housing environment in Jefferson City. Many rental and affordable homes were affected by the disaster, further exacerbating housing issues in Jefferson City. It is estimated that the most impacted area lost around 152 housing units, roughly 95% being rental units. Some families were forced to relocate to other communities because they could not find affordable housing. A continued lack of affordable housing in Jefferson City contributes to economic and social issues, including poverty and homelessness.
The tornado impacted school buildings including the Simonsen 9th Grade Center. Jefferson City Public Schools sustained damage including; Nichols Career Center which had windows broken and gas lines were broken off when the large rooftop units had been blown over, Adkins Stadium’s press box’s roof was blown off, and Thorpe Gordon Elementary School had minor roof damage, and the Jefferson City Academic Center had minor penetration of its roof by debris.

In Cole County, 516 residential buildings sustained damage, and 382 were within the City of Jefferson. Within the City, 51 structures were expected to be destroyed including commercial buildings.