



On May 22, 2011, an F-5 tornado ripped through the City of Joplin, destroying over 30% of the city. Officer Taylor was among many first responders from all over the state of Missouri as well as other states who responded to this tragedy. It was on May 23, 2011 when Officer Taylor was struck by lightning while assisting with the rescue efforts in Joplin at 20th and Connecticut. He was taken to a Springfield hospital where he remained until he succumbed to his injuries on June 3, 2011. Officer Jeff Taylor is the only officer in the history of Riverside Police Department to die in the line of duty. He is also the only emergency disaster responder to pass away as a result of Joplin's May 22 tornado.