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Hole Punch Cloud: the Uncloud.

A "Hole Punch" cloud is a non-technical name given to a cloud formed from an aircraft dissipation hole or trail. They are also called "Punch Hole" clouds. Rather than extending as a line, Hole Punch clouds appear as a circular or oval

hole in a deck or thin layer of supercooled water clouds. They are not uncommon where jet flight paths intersect altocumulus or cirrocumulus layers. What is uncommon is when they form in a perfect circle that persists for a length of time to be widely observed.

On December 11, 2003 that's exactly what happened along the central Gulf Coast. A remarkably circular and persistent Hole Punch cloud formed over Mobile, Alabama at lunchtime. Numerous curious people photographed it. The event was so much a topic of conversation that it was the top local news story of the day.

At [wkrq.com](#) in the Weather Education section you'll find a [Hole Punch article with background and pictures](#). Also check the website of the Mobile office of the National Weather Service for an [extensive article with links](#) to the [synoptic charts of the day](#). The University of Wisconsin MODIS images give a space perspective both [medium](#) and [close](#).

Hole punch clouds are not new. They've been seen around the world and [more pictures](#) are on the website for Project Atmosphere Australia.

[Download a large image of this hole punch cloud](#) for personal use only.

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