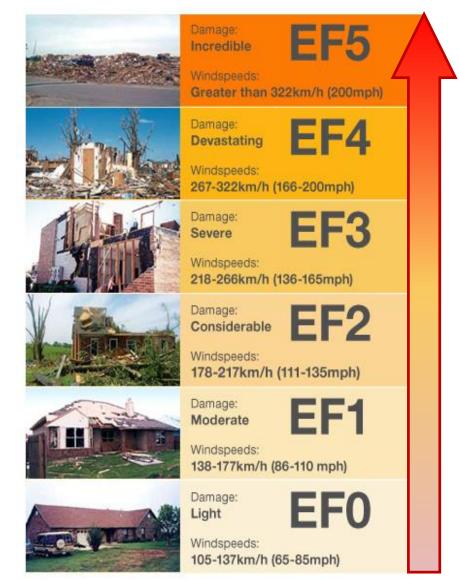
# **Tornado Classification**

Tornadoes are <u>classified into</u> <u>6 categories</u> F0 – F5 using the (Enhanced) Fujita scale.

- In rating tornadoes, only surface wind speeds, or the wind speeds indicated by the damage resulting from the tornado, are taken into account.
- Rating is based on the amount of damage, ranging from "weak" F0 to "violent" F5.
- Outside Tornado Alley, and North America in general, violent tornadoes are extremely rare.



# F0 and F1 Category



- "Weak" winds (40-110 mph), little or no structural damage.
- Stay on the ground for a mile (1.6 km) or less.
- Damage: tree branches snapped, chimneys toppled, signs torn down, siding torn away, windows broken, roof damaged.
- In the United States, 80% of tornadoes are F0 and F1.

## **F3 Category**



- "Very Strong" winds (136-165 mph).
- Severe structural damage and serious risk to life.
- Damage: most trees uprooted, trains overturned, roofs torn off, walls demolished, unanchored homes swept away.

## **F5 Category**



- "Violent" winds (200+ mph, max of 319 mph observed).
- Rare: ~0.1% (less than 1% are F4 and F5 combined).
- Incredible damage: bark peeled off trees, houses lifted off foundations and completely demolished, vehicles travel greater than 300 feet (100 m) through the air.

#### **US Tornado Frequency**

#### Number of Reported U.S. Tornadoes by EF Rating 2/2007 - 12/2012

