

Tornado Classification

Tornadoes are classified into 6 categories 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.**

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------|
|  | Damage: Incredible | EF5 |
| | Windspeeds: Greater than 322km/h (200mph) | |
|  | Damage: Devastating | EF4 |
| | Windspeeds: 267-322km/h (166-200mph) | |
|  | Damage: Severe | EF3 |
| | Windspeeds: 218-266km/h (136-165mph) | |
|  | Damage: Considerable | EF2 |
| | Windspeeds: 178-217km/h (111-135mph) | |
|  | Damage: Moderate | EF1 |
| | Windspeeds: 138-177km/h (86-110 mph) | |
|  | Damage: Light | EF0 |
| | Windspeeds: 105-137km/h (65-85mph) | |

F0 and F1 Category



- **“Weak” winds (<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.

Tornado Videos

Tornado Signs and Birth Moment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xo4lkic3kfs>

Violent Tornadoes:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeyou7BL_0g

Tornado Destructive Power:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLN0c-CWN-0>

US Tornado Frequency

Number of Reported U.S. Tornadoes by EF Rating for the time period between 2/2007 and 12/2012

