



Iowa Tornado Statistics



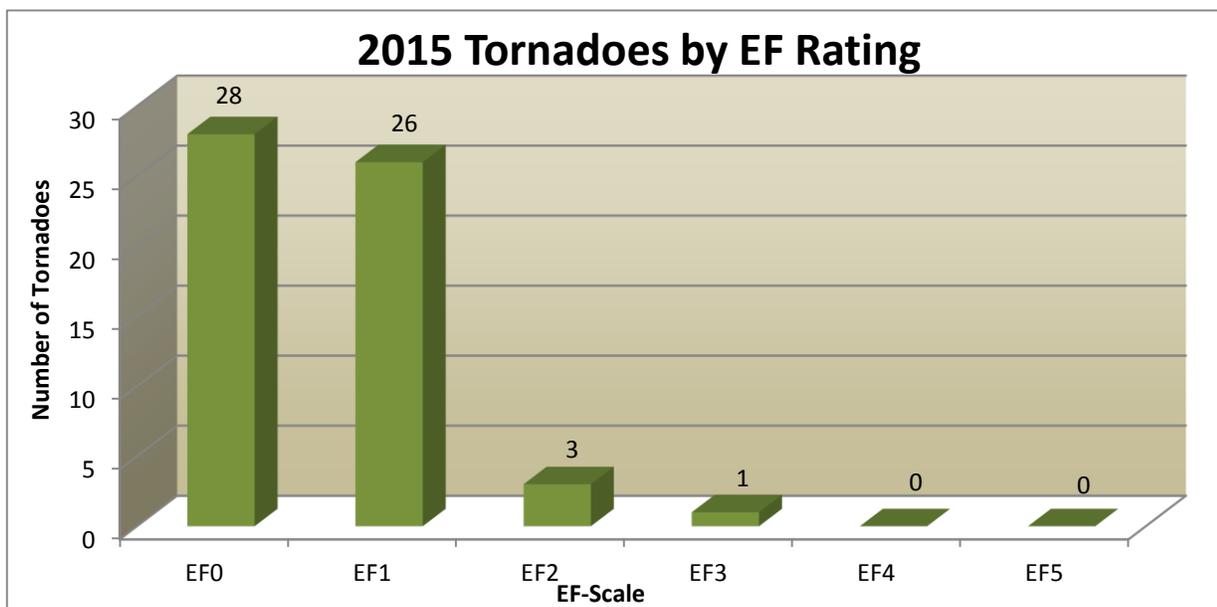
2015

Compiled by: Craig Cogil

Total Number of Tornadoes: 58
Number of Injuries: 5
Number of Deaths: 0
Path Length of All Tornadoes: 272.5 miles
Average Path Length: 4.7 miles
Average Width: 117 Yards
Longest Path Length Individual Tornado: 24.6 miles
Largest Width Individual Tornado: 700 Yards (0.4 miles wide) – Lake City tornado
Peak Hour of Tornado Occurrence: 4 – 5 PM CST
Peak Month of Tornado Occurrence: November
Most Tornadoes in a Day: November 11th with 19
Number of Tornado Days: 16

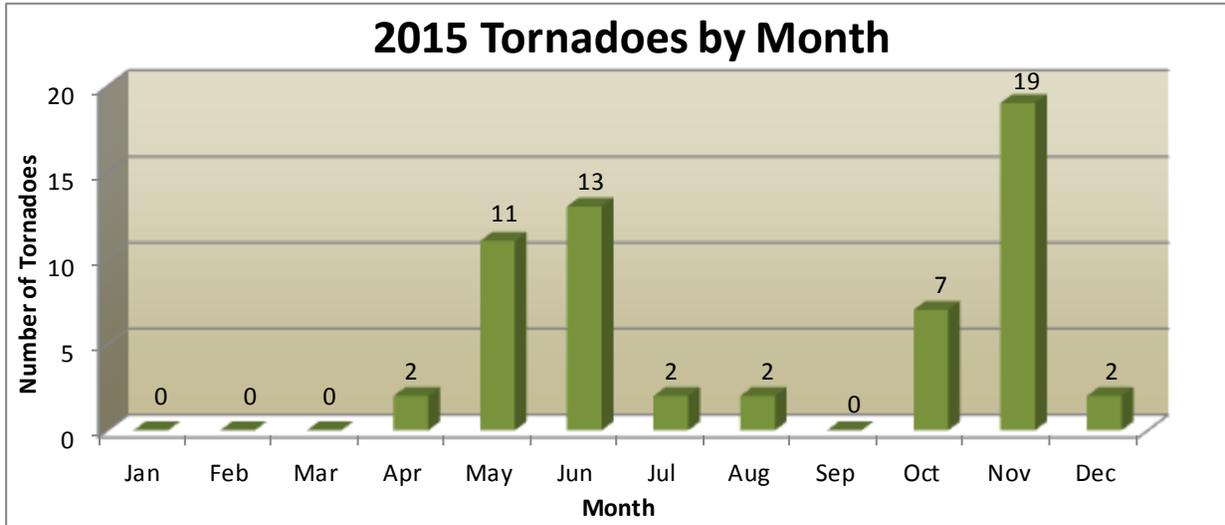
Tornadoes by EF-Scale:

EF0	EF1	EF2	EF3	EF4	EF5
28	26	3	1	0	0
48.3%	44.8%	5.2%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%



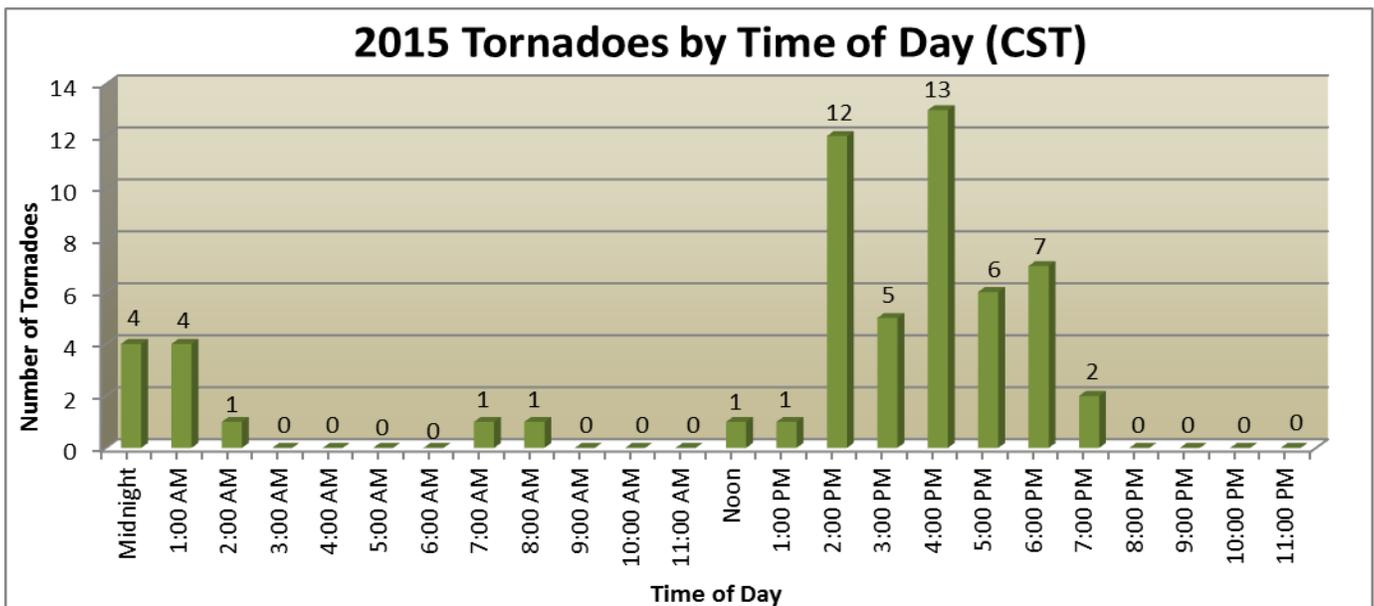
Tornadoes by Month:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	2	11	13	2	2	0	7	19	2
0%	0%	0%	3.4%	19.0%	22.5%	3.4%	3.4%	0%	12.1%	32.8%	3.4%



Tornadoes by Time of Day (CST):

MID	1AM	2AM	3AM	4AM	5AM	6AM	7AM	8AM	9AM	10AM	11AM
4	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
1	1	12	5	13	6	7	2	0	0	0	0



2015 Iowa Tornado Summary

By: Kevin Skow

The 2015 Iowa tornado season was relatively quiet through the climatological peak of activity (May and June), but featured multiple, rare late-season events in October, November, and December. A total of 58 tornadoes were recorded for the year, above average of 48 tornadoes typically seen in a given year. Almost half of these tornadoes occurred in the fall months.

The season got off to a start on April 9 when a pair of rain-wrapped tornadoes struck far east-central Iowa just north of Davenport. This storm complex would go on to produce deadly tornadoes across northern Illinois that evening. An EF1 tornado scoured a 23.5 mile track across Carroll and Calhoun counties between 7 and 8 pm on May 10, making a direct hit on Lake City, where a number of homes and the school sustained roof damage. This was one of three tornadoes to form that day. The latter part of May was characterized by two somewhat unusual early morning tornado events, one over Madison/Dallas counties on May 17 and another over Jackson County on May 24. The May 17 storm was also responsible for producing a downburst that derailed an 80-car train. The five short-lived tornadoes that occurred afterwards were relatively weak but did damage a few farmsteads. The May 24 tornado hit just prior to 10 am and only damaged some trees.

Another early morning tornado event took place across central Iowa (Webster, Boone, and Story counties) between 1 and 2 am on June 7. Four very brief tornadoes touched down along the leading edge of a squall line, one of which moved through far southern Ames and caused tree and light building damage. A squall line was also responsible for five EF0/EF1 tornadoes that hit southeast Iowa on the afternoon of June 20. The strongest tornado of the season hit southeast Iowa on June 22. This large EF3 tornado caused extensive damage to a few farmsteads and trees in NW Monroe County. The tornado lifted eight miles northwest of Albia, but a second EF2 tornado developed just to the west of town and hopscotched through the southwest part of the city, heavily damaging several businesses and homes. Iowa saw only two tornadoes in August, one on August 2 and another on August 18. The August 2 EF1 tornado struck the hamlet of Williamson and featured a very erratic track over Adair and Adams counties.

The barrage of late season tornadoes began on October 23 with seven tornadoes racing across northwest and west central Iowa during the late afternoon and evening hours. While visually striking, thankfully the damage was light and all of the tornadoes were rated EF0. A strong low pressure system lifted across the region on Veteran's Day (November 11) and led to the most prolific November tornado outbreak in Iowa history. A total of 19 tornadoes lashed the southern half of the state with some tracks over 20 miles long. Tornadoes touched down at the Des Moines Airport and the SE side of Knoxville and several other tornadoes reached EF-2 intensity near Lake Rathbun and Barnes City. Finally, December 23 witnessed two tornadoes in the eastern portion of the state near Cedar Rapids and Luxemburg, both of EF1 intensity. These two tornadoes set a record for the number of tornadoes to occur in Iowa in the month of December. Of the 58 tornadoes seen this year, all but four were rated EF0 or EF1. The split between EF0 and EF1 tornadoes was nearly equal (28 and 26 respectively).

If you have any questions, please contact Craig Cogil at craig.cogil@noaa.gov