



Iowa Tornado Statistics



2016

Compiled by: Craig Cogil

Total Number of Tornadoes: 43

Number of Injuries: 12

Number of Deaths: 0

Path Length of All Tornadoes: 96.6 miles

Average Path Length: 2.25 miles

Average Width: 70 Yards

Longest Path Length Individual Tornado: 20.0 miles

Largest Width Individual Tornado: 800 Yards (0.45 miles wide)

Peak Hour of Tornado Occurrence: 4 – 5 PM CST

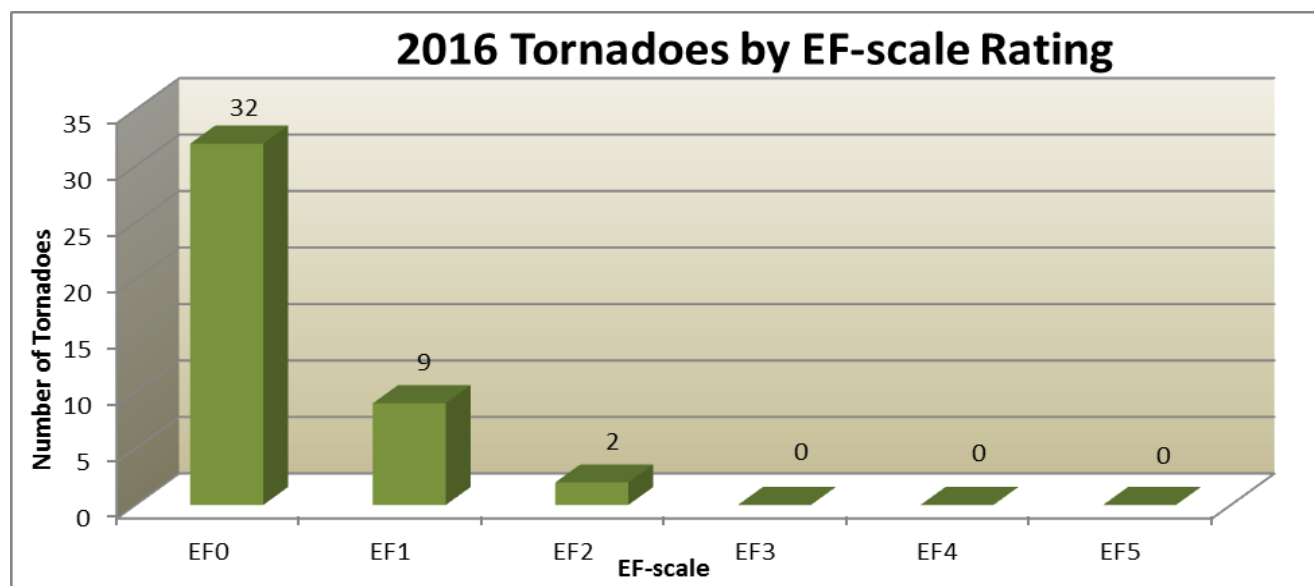
Peak Month of Tornado Occurrence: July

Most Tornadoes in a Day: April 27th, July 17th and November 28th, all with 5 tornadoes

Number of Tornado Days: 19

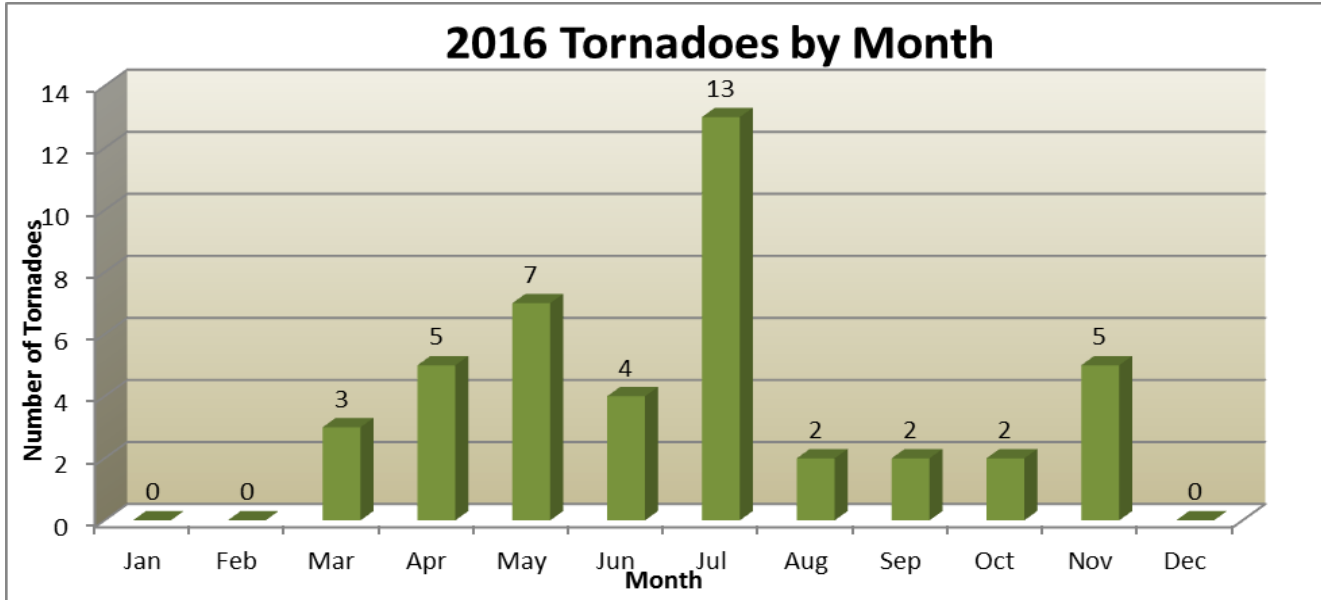
Tornadoes by EF-Scale:

EF0	EF1	EF2	EF3	EF4	EF5
32	9	2	0	0	0
74.4%	20.9%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%



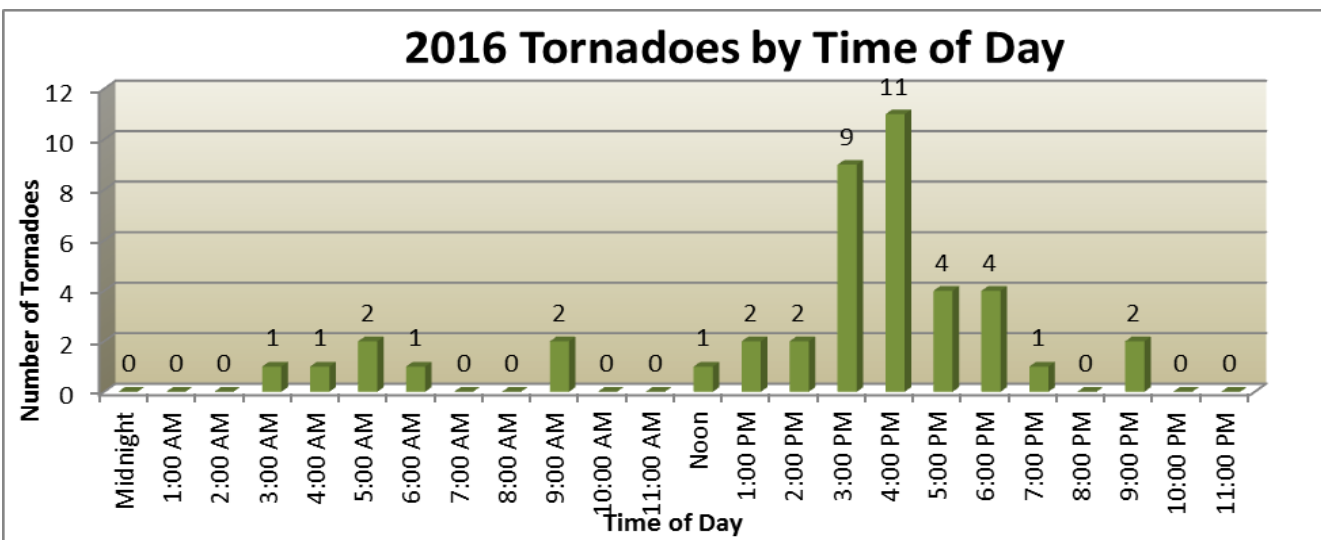
Tornadoes by Month:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	3	5	7	4	13	2	2	2	5	0
0%	0%	6.9%	11.6%	16.3%	9.3%	30.2%	4.7%	4.7%	4.7%	11.6%	0%



Tornadoes by Time of Day (CST):

MID	1AM	2AM	3AM	4AM	5AM	6AM	7AM	8AM	9AM	10AM	11AM
0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	0
0%	0%	0%	2.3%	2.3%	4.7%	2.3%	0%	0%	4.7%	0%	0%
Noon	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
1	2	2	9	11	4	4	1	0	2	0	0
2.3%	4.7%	4.7%	20.9%	25.5%	9.3%	9.3%	2.3%	0%	4.7%	0%	0%



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By: Craig Cogil

The year of 2016 saw a generally mild year in Iowa's tornado activity after two years of above normal activity in 2014 and 2015. The 43 tornadoes observed during the year were just shy of the longer term average of 46 tornadoes. Almost 75 percent of the tornadoes were weak EF0s that were generally very short-lived. There were 9 EF1s, the longest of which was on the ground for 20 miles and crossed into Illinois near Princeton, IA. The remaining two tornadoes were EF2s and produced most of the injuries that occurred this year. The monthly breakdown of activity was quite typical during the spring with a steady increase starting with three in March, five in April and rising to seven in May. June is generally the most active tornado month but saw surprisingly few tornadoes with a total of four. July was the busiest month with thirteen tornadoes and two tornadoes a piece in August, September and October. There was a flurry of activity at the end of November with five tornadoes late in the month to close out the activity for the year.

The first tornadoes of the year occurred in far east-central Iowa where three tornadoes occurred across Scott into Clinton counties on March 15th. One of the tornadoes in Clinton County hit a mobile home park injuring three people. In April, all the tornadoes occurred on the 27th of the month in southwest Iowa with tornado activity clustered from Montgomery into Taylor and Union counties. The final tornado in Union county approached Creston from the south but lifted shortly before entering the town. Tornadoes occurred on four different dates in May with four tornadoes occurring on the 9th for the most active day of the month. The unusually slow month of June saw tornadoes on just two different days with all tornadoes being EF0s.

The latter half of the season saw activity spike in the second half of July with 13 tornadoes occurring between the 17th and 30th of the month. The busiest day was the 17th when 5 tornadoes occurred during the early morning hours between the hours of 3 AM and 7AM. In a somewhat unusual occurrence, the two strongest tornadoes of the year were during this early morning event with an EF2 tornado passing through portions of Vinton producing five injuries. The other EF2 passed near Walford and produced another four injuries about 20 minutes after the Vinton tornado. August through October saw two tornadoes each month. The most notable tornado occurred on October 6th and developed in Davenport producing EF1 damage in portions of the city before heading northeast into rural locations and then crossing the Mississippi River into Illinois. The season was wrapped up on November 28th when a series of weak tornadoes occurred in central Iowa near Parkersburg, Grundy Center and Montezuma.

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