



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
234 Weather Service Drive
Jackson, MS 39232

2017 Ranks Fourth Most Active Year for Tornadoes in Mississippi Since 1950

2017 will go down as the 4th most active year for number of tornadoes in Mississippi since 1950. In total, 69 tornadoes occurred across the state during the year. Unfortunately, five fatalities occurred along with 59 injuries from these tornadoes. While much of the year was quiet, including the typically active months of November and December, several other months were exceptionally active. During three months of 2017, the second highest monthly tornado count was observed since 1950: January, April, and August.

How does 2017 stack up against previous years? It was a far cry from the most active tornado year, which was 2008 with 109 tornadoes. Ninety-nine tornadoes occurred in 2005, which sits at second most active. This was a year marked by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which both brought many tornadoes to the state. The number of tornadoes that occurred during Hurricane Rita still ranks as the most tornadoes in a Mississippi severe weather event and the most in a 24 hour period. The infamous year of 2011 stands as third most active with 97 tornadoes, as a result of both the very active April 26th-27th outbreak and the April 15th outbreak. Both of these dates rank in the top ten number of tornadoes in a single Mississippi weather event.

2017 started early with ten tornadoes on the second day of the year. After a quiet stretch for most of the month, another round of tornadoes occurred on the 21st and 22nd, including the 31 mile EF3 tornado that tore through eastern Lamar County, Hattiesburg, Petal and surrounding communities. This tornado, which was the strongest of the year, was half a mile wide and resulted in four fatalities and 57 injuries. In total 13 tornadoes occurred in January, marking the second most active January since 1950, coming in second all-time to 1999 which had 30 tornadoes.

April, during which 34 tornadoes occurred, was highlighted by the extremely active event on April 30th. This accounted for 29 tornadoes, which is third most for a tornado outbreak in Mississippi. April is notoriously an active month for tornadoes in the state, particularly during the last week of the month. The most active April for tornadoes was in 2011 when 67 were recorded.

This summer was unusually active for tornadoes, thanks to the remnants of Hurricane Harvey in August. Typically, many tornado events in the summer months are due to tropical cyclone landfalls. The highest number of tornadoes for August all-time was in 1992 with 27, thanks to Hurricane Andrew. 2017 is tied with 2005 for second highest with 11 tornadoes. As is usually the case with tropical cyclone tornadoes, these were weak in nature and brief.

The fall was rather quiet with only one tornado recorded in December and none in November. The last time there were no tornadoes in November was 2013 and also in 2012.

For a summary of tornadoes in 2017 by month and EF scale please visit http://www.weather.gov/jan/ms_tornado_count_2017

For additional information about Mississippi tornadoes since 1950, please visit http://www.weather.gov/jan/severe_statistics

