

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2021

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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NORTH DAKOTA, Central and West

(ND-Z001) DIVIDE, (ND-Z002) BURKE, (ND-Z003) RENVILLE, (ND-Z004) BOTTINEAU, (ND-Z005) ROLETTE, (ND-Z009) WILLIAMS, (ND-Z010) MOUNTRAIL, (ND-Z011) WARD, (ND-Z012) MCHENRY, (ND-Z013) PIERCE, (ND-Z017) MCKENZIE, (ND-Z018) DUNN, (ND-Z019) MERCER, (ND-Z020) OLIVER, (ND-Z021) MCLEAN, (ND-Z022) SHERIDAN, (ND-Z023) WELLS, (ND-Z025) FOSTER, (ND-Z031) GOLDEN VALLEY, (ND-Z032) BILLINGS, (ND-Z033) STARK, (ND-Z034) MORTON, (ND-Z035) BURLEIGH, (ND-Z036) KIDDER, (ND-Z037) STUTSMAN, (ND-Z040) SLOPE, (ND-Z041) HETTINGER, (ND-Z042) GRANT, (ND-Z043) BOWMAN, (ND-Z044) ADAMS, (ND-Z045) SIOUX, (ND-Z046) EMMONS, (ND-Z047) LOGAN, (ND-Z048) LA MOURE, (ND-Z050) MCINTOSH, (ND-Z051) DICKEY	05/01/21 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	05/31/21 23:59 CST		0	

May started with a D3 drought over all of western and central North Dakota. Of the 36 NWS Bismarck forecast area counties, 34 were entirely in D3 with only the eastern parts of LaMoure and Dickey counties still in D2. By the middle of the month D4 drought designation was introduced into parts of the area between Bismarck and the Canadian border. By the end of May rains in the Dickinson area and parts of the James River Valley caused those areas to be reverted back to D2, at least parts of some counties. D4 continued between Bismarck and the Canadian border.

KIDDER COUNTY --- 2.9 ESE TAPPEN [46.85, -99.57], 2.7 ESE TAPPEN [46.85, -99.57]	05/19/21 15:32 CST		0	Tornado (EFU, L: 0.25 mi , W: 50 yd)
	05/19/21 15:41 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

The tornado touched down in an open field southeast of Tappen. There was no damage to evaluate and so by National Weather Service policy the tornado is rated EF Unknown.

Thunderstorms formed along and ahead of a slow moving frontal boundary draped through the upper James River Valley into south central North Dakota. Along the boundary, strong low level instability and surface vorticity were noted. One thunderstorm produced a tornado southeast of Tappen in Kidder County. The tornado moved slowly through an open field, stretching westerly as it dissipated. No damage was reported. The tornado was highly visible, and lasted about nine minutes. It was rated EFU, EF Unknown, by National Weather Service policy as there was no damage to evaluate.

MORTON COUNTY --- 5.6 SSE HEBRON [46.83, -101.97]	05/23/21 19:45 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
	05/23/21 19:48 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

A trained spotter estimated thunderstorm wind gusts of 70 mph.

MORTON COUNTY --- 5.4 SW FLASHER [46.39, -101.30]	05/23/21 20:45 CST		3K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 65 kt)
	05/23/21 20:55 CST		0	Source: Public

One tree on the end of a shelterbelt broke off just above ground level. A wind break panel was torn off and blown over a fence.

Thunderstorms formed in the vicinity of a warm front lifting through southern North Dakota as a short-wave trough approached the area. Strong instability and deep layer wind shear were noted. The highest wind gust was estimated to be 75 mph, which occurred in far southwest Morton County southwest of Flasher.