



Iowa Tornado Statistics



2019

Compiled by: Craig Cogil

Total Number of Tornadoes: 54

Number of Injuries: 2

Number of Deaths: 1

Path Length of All Tornadoes: 126.7 miles

Average Path Length: 2.35 miles

Average Width: 52 yards

Longest Path Length Individual Tornado: 12.6 miles – Van Buren County

Largest Width Individual Tornado: 300 yards – Des Moines County near Mediapolis

Peak Hour of Tornado Occurrence: 6 - 7 PM CST

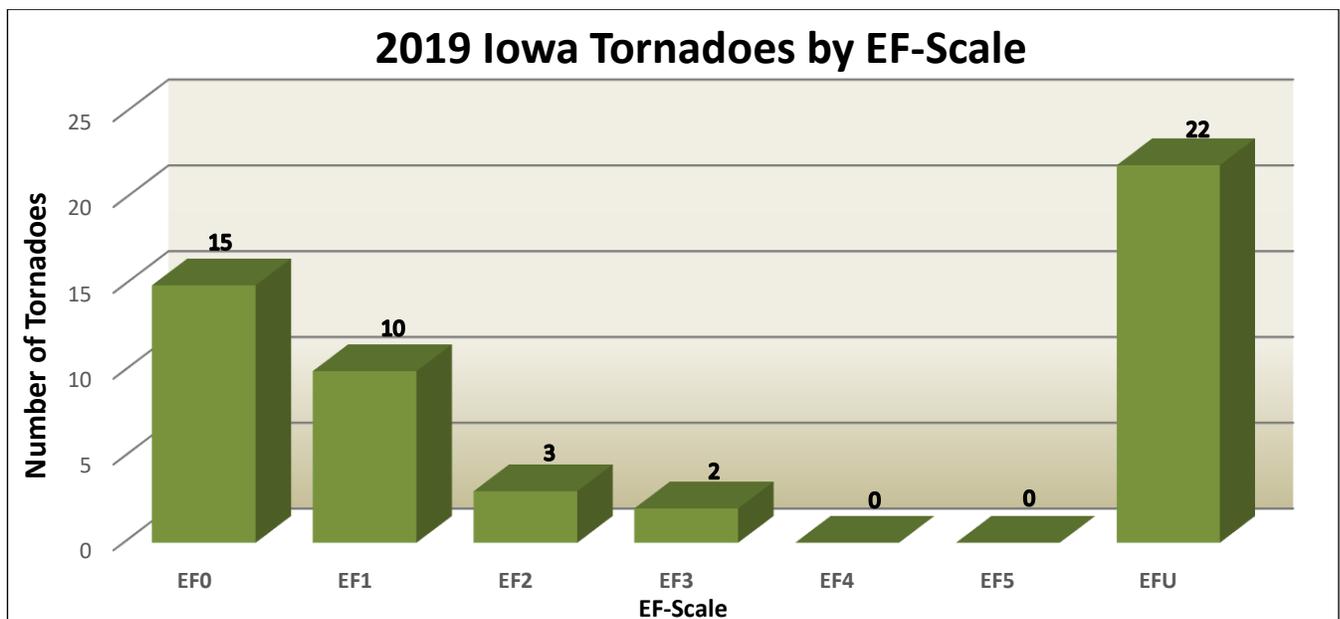
Peak Month of Tornado Occurrence: May

Most Tornadoes in a Day: May 29th with 15 tornadoes

Number of Tornado Days: 19

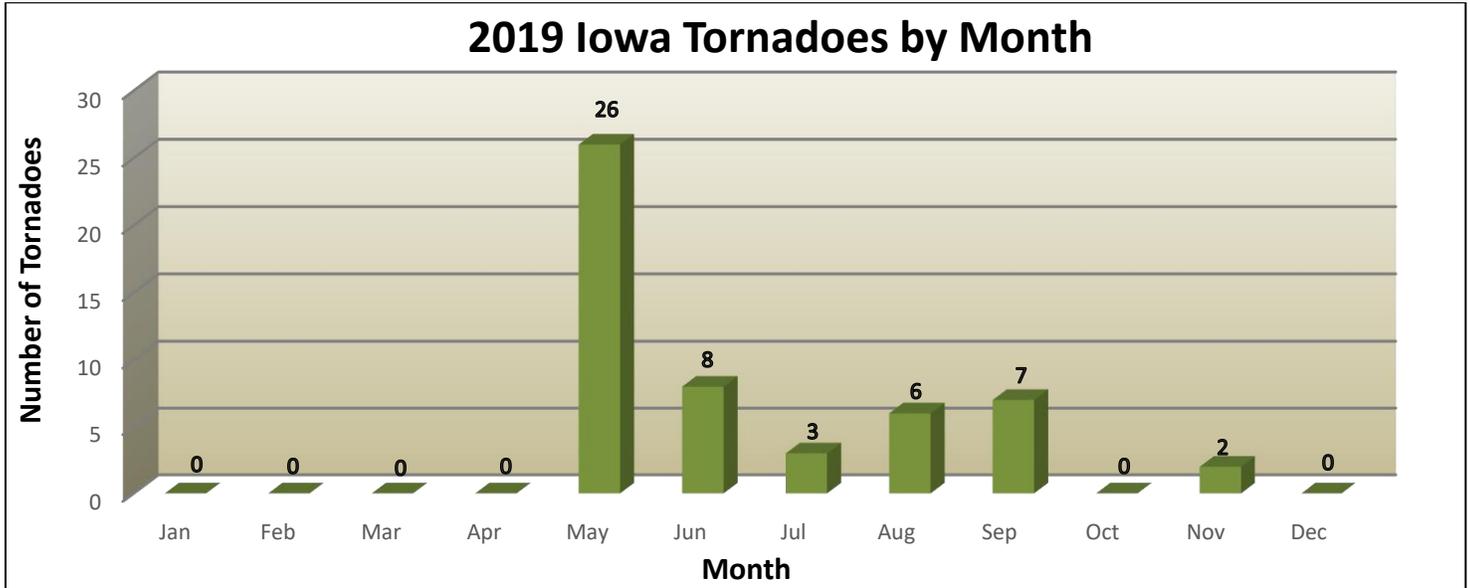
Tornadoes by EF-Scale:

EF0	EF1	EF2	EF3	EF4	EF5	EFU
15	10	3	2	0	0	24
28%	18%	6%	4%	0.0%	0.0%	44%



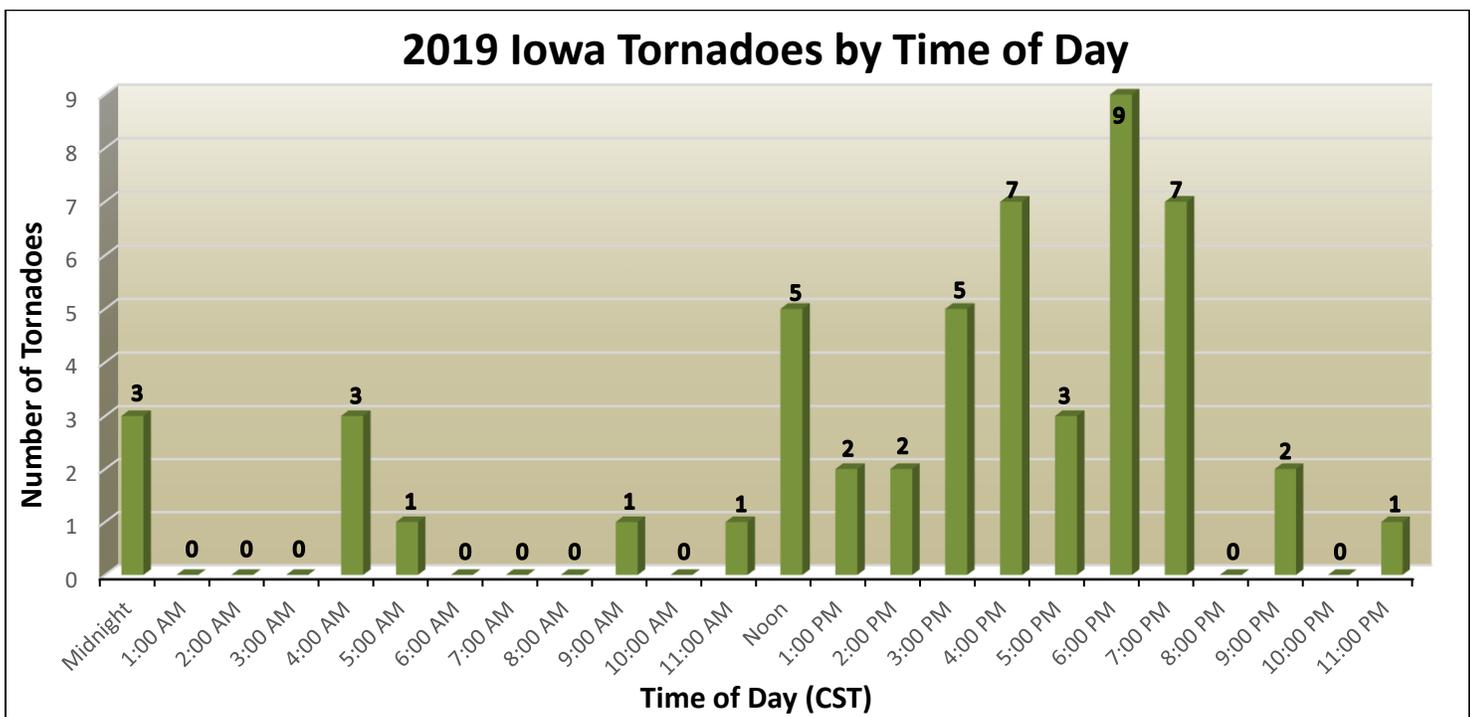
Tornadoes by Month:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	26	8	3	6	9	0	2	0
0%	0%	0%	0%	48%	15%	6%	11%	16%	0%	4%	0%



Tornadoes by Time of Day (CST):

MID	1AM	2AM	3AM	4AM	5AM	6AM	7AM	8AM	9AM	10AM	11AM
3	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
5%	0%	0%	0%	5%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%
Noon	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
5	2	2	7	7	3	9	7	0	2	0	1
9%	4%	4%	13%	13%	5%	17%	13%	0%	4%	0%	2%



2019 Iowa Tornado Summary

After a very slow start to the 2019 tornado season in Iowa with no tornadoes through May 21st, the season kicked into high gear almost overnight. The season started with overnight tornadoes on May 22nd including two in southwest Iowa. The stronger of the two was an EF2 tornado just southeast of Adair. This tornado produced extensive damage to a home killing a 74 year old woman and injuring her husband. The other tornado that night was an EF1 outside of Anita. Two days later on May 24th, a pair of tornadoes occurred in the Iowa City area producing minor damage but fortunately no injuries or deaths. Then on Memorial Day, six tornadoes occurred with two in northern Iowa and the other three in the far southeast. The strongest tornado was an EF3 in Van Buren County where extensive damage was produced at a house near Cantril. The finale to this active period in late May came on the 29th when 15 relatively weak tornadoes occurred in central and eastern Iowa. While most of the tornadoes remained in open farmland, a few of them did produce damage in Hardin and Poweshiek county including one injury near Deep River. This eight day period in late May accounted for 25 tornadoes across the state including one death and two injuries and accounted for just over half of the normal tornadoes Iowa experiences in a year. The first tornadoes in June occurred on the 9th with three landspouts in eastern Iowa. These tornadoes remained in rural areas producing little damage despite remaining on the ground for several minutes each. An additional four tornadoes were observed on the 15th with a landspout north of Whitten in Hardin County which destroyed an old barn. The other three tornadoes occurred in Des Moines County including two EF2 tornadoes southwest of Oakville. The final tornado of the month was a weak tornado in northwest Iowa near Terril.

Three tornadoes occurred in July and all were very short in length and remained in open cropland. There was an uptick in activity during the month of August with six tornadoes reported. This included three tornadoes in the morning on the 20th associated with a line of thunderstorms. The strongest of these was an EF3 southeast of Indianola doing considerable damage to the Operators Union training facility, fortunately no injuries occurred. There were nine tornadoes during September, but these remained in rural locations producing only minor to no damage. Finally, on November 30th, two weak tornadoes occurred near Lake Panorama passing through rural agricultural land or wooded areas. In total, 54 tornadoes occurred in 2019 across Iowa with one fatality and two injuries.

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