

# Iowa Tornadoes



Tornado near Richmond,  
Iowa on March 31, 2023.  
Photo by Sophie Miller,

# 2023

# Iowa Tornadoes

## **2023 Quick Facts** **Compiled by Craig Cogil &** **Brooke Hagenhoff**

Total Number of Tornadoes:	72
Number of Injuries:	11
Number of Deaths:	0
Path Length of All Tornadoes:	282.0 miles
Average Path Length:	3.92 miles
Average Width:	87 yards
Longest Path Length Single Tornado:	26.09 miles → NE of Ottumwa to SW of Keota
Largest Width Single Tornado:	1000 yards → EF3 Tornado in S Keokuk County
Peak Hour of Tornado Occurrence:	4-5 PM CST with 17 tornadoes
Peak Month of Tornado Occurrence:	March with 25
Most Tornadoes in a Day:	March 31st with 25 tornadoes
Number of Tornado Days:	14

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## 2023 Summary

The 2023 tornado season had the earliest start of any season dating back to when tornado records began in 1950. Two tornadoes occurred on January 16th in eastern Iowa. The first started just northeast of Williamsburg in Iowa county and tracked quickly northeast, remaining in rural areas. There was some minor damage to a farmstead along with a couple of trees blown down. The 2nd tornado occurred in Linn County northwest of Ely and was on the ground only briefly. This tornado produced no damage as it remained in open fields. This is also only the 2nd year tornadoes have been reported in January, the other being 1967. The season then took off dramatically on March 31st when an outbreak of tornadoes occurred across mostly eastern Iowa. A total of 25 tornadoes touched down on that day which is the most ever for any day in March. Several strong to violent tornadoes occurred with 9 EF2's, one EF3 and one EF4 with the rest of the tornadoes being of EF1 strength or less. A total of 11 injuries occurred on that day but fortunately there were no fatalities.

April saw only five tornadoes with four of them occurring on April 19th in western Iowa. The month of May ended up with 19 tornadoes, however most of them were weak tornadoes which remained in open cropland or other rural locations. June only saw two weak tornadoes with both of them occurring on June 24th. This continued a trend since 2018 of relatively few tornadoes in what is usually the most active month of the year. Nine tornadoes touched down in July on two different days. The bulk of these occurred in the pre-dawn hours of July 12th with six tornadoes in west central Iowa. The remaining ten tornadoes for 2023 were spread out in August (6), September (2) and October (2) with little if any damage occurring with these events.

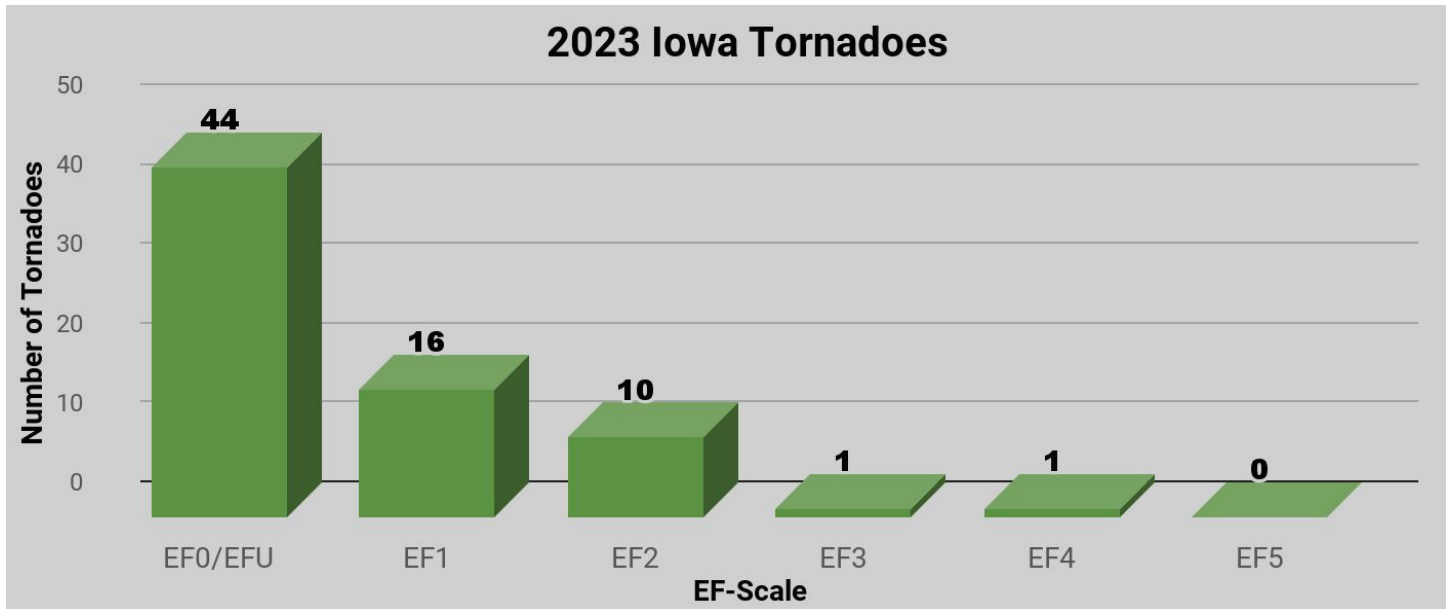
Overall, the total number of tornadoes for 2023 was 72 which is a little more than 20 above normal. The outbreak on March 31st was by far the most impressive event for the year with all the injuries in 2023 occurring on that day. The longest tornado path for the year was just over 26 miles which started northeast of Ottumwa and ended to the southwest of Keota. This tornado was also the widest of the year with a diameter of around 1000 yards or a little more than one half mile wide at a few locations along its path.

If you have any questions, please contact Craig Cogil at [craig.cogil@noaa.gov](mailto:craig.cogil@noaa.gov)

# 2023 Iowa Tornado Statistics

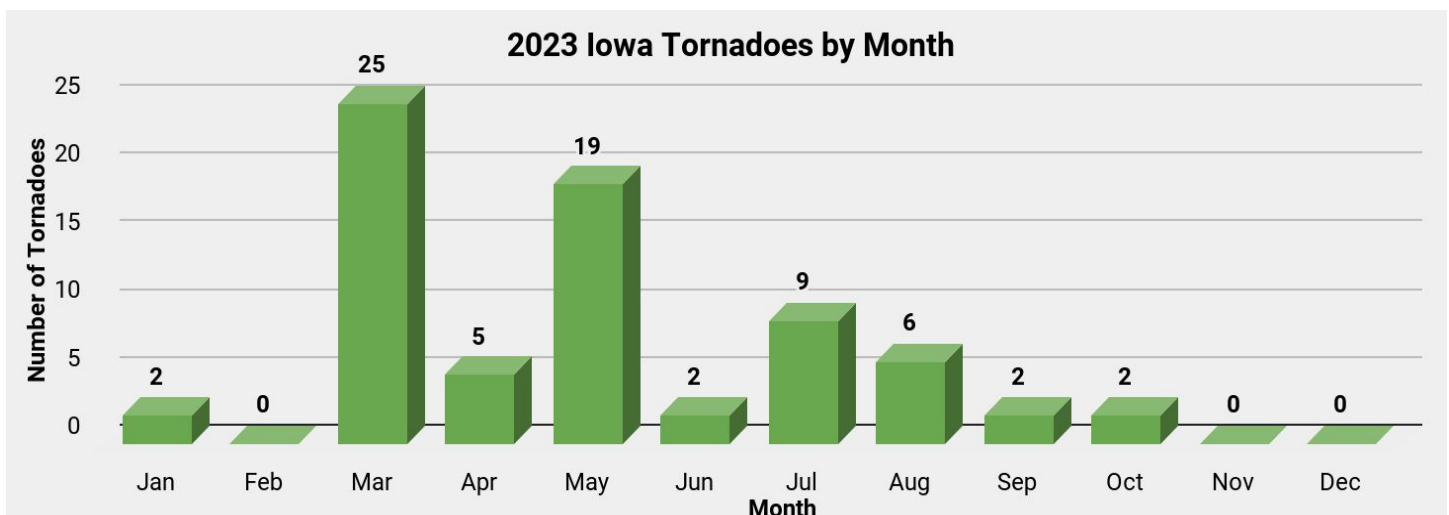
## Tornadoes by EF-Scale:

EF0/EFU	EF1	EF2	EF3	EF4	EF5
44	16	10	1	1	0



## Tornadoes by Month:

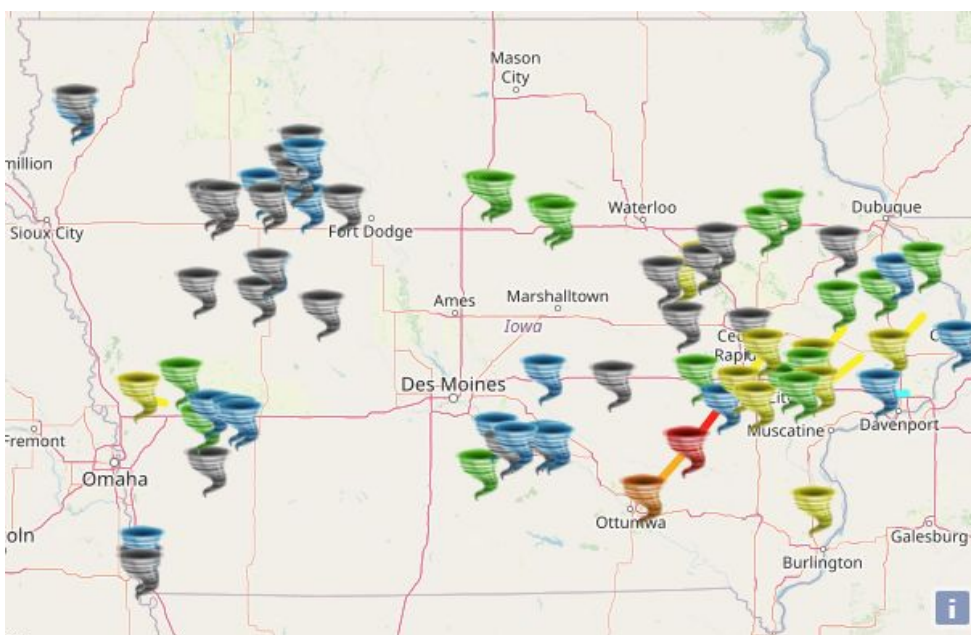
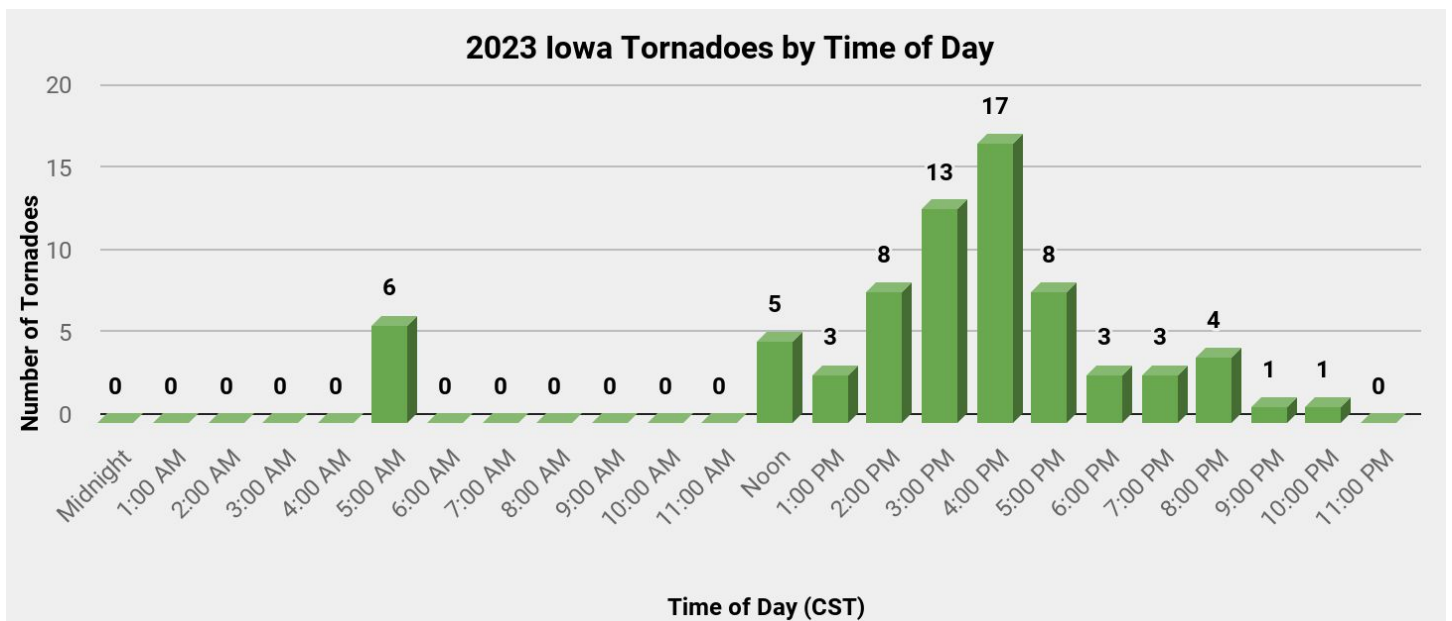
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	0	25	5	19	2	9	6	2	2	0	0
3%	0%	35%	7%	26%	3%	12%	8%	3%	3%	0%	0%



# 2023 Iowa Tornado Statistics

## Tornadoes by Time of Day (CST):

MID	1AM	2AM	3AM	4AM	5AM	6AM	7AM	8AM	9AM	10AM	11AM
0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Noon	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
5	3	8	13	17	8	3	3	4	1	1	0
7%	4%	11%	18%	24%	11%	4%	4%	6%	1%	1%	0%



Additional details on each Iowa tornado that occurred in 2023 can be found on our webpage by clicking [HERE](#).