



Iowa Tornado Statistics



2020

Compiled by: Craig Cogil

Total Number of Tornadoes: 28

Number of Injuries: 0

Number of Deaths: 0

Path Length of All Tornadoes: 69.97 miles

Average Path Length: 2.50 miles

Average Width: 56 yards

Longest Path Length Individual Tornado: 7.47 miles – Adams and Adair Counties

Largest Width Individual Tornado: 250 yards – Wright County south of Eagle Grove

Peak Hour of Tornado Occurrence: Noon to 1 PM CST and 5 to 6 PM CST

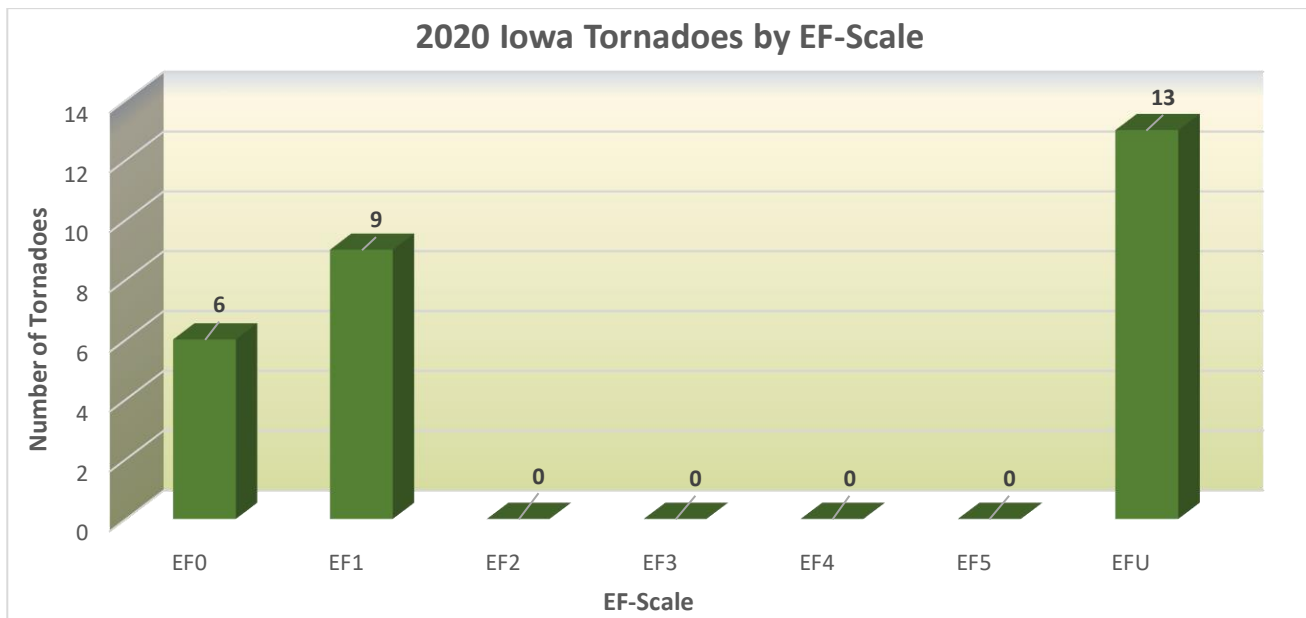
Peak Month of Tornado Occurrence: May

Most Tornadoes in a Day: March 28th with 9 tornadoes

Number of Tornado Days: 6

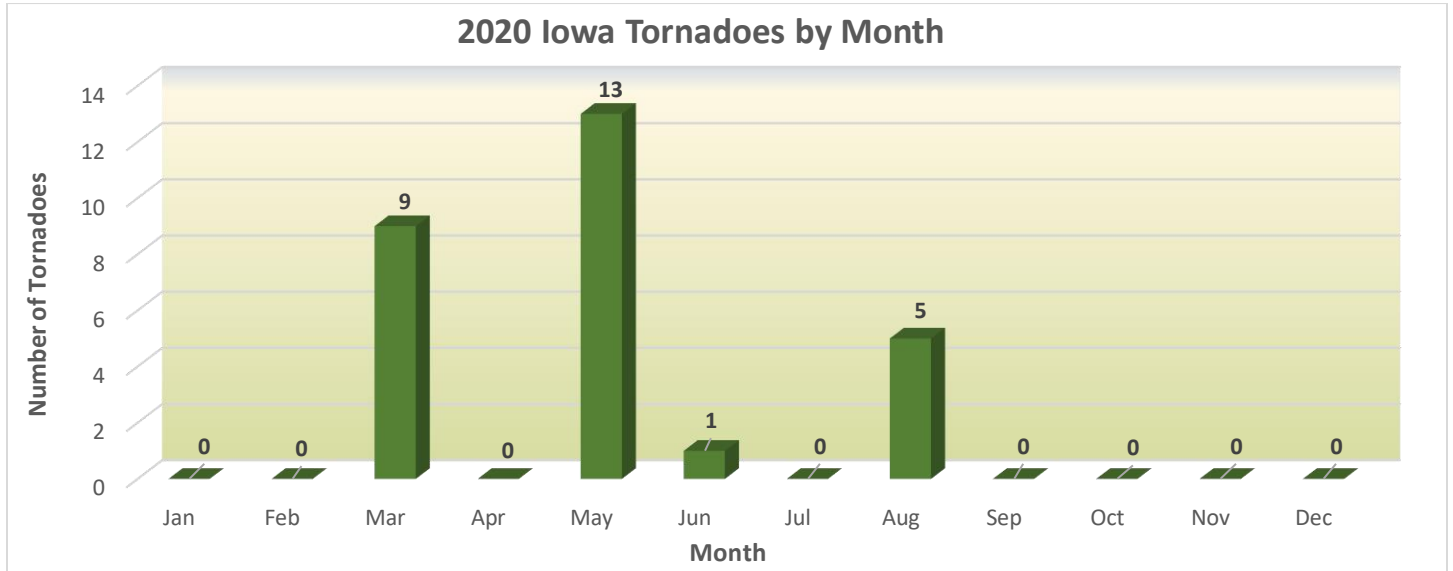
Tornadoes by EF-Scale:

EF0	EF1	EF2	EF3	EF4	EF5	EFU
6	9	0	0	0	0	13
22%	32%	0%	0%	0%	0%	46%



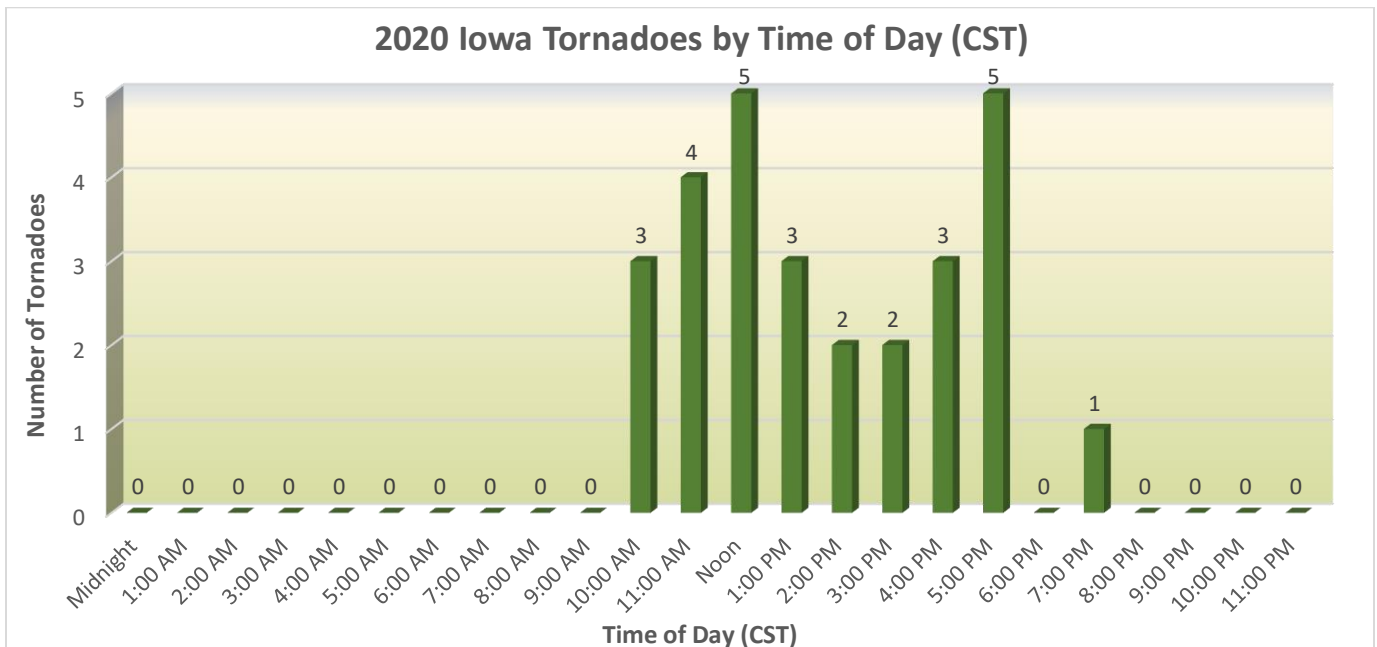
Tornadoes by Month:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	9	0	13	1	0	5	0	0	0	0
0%	0%	32%	0%	46%	4%	0%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%



Tornadoes by Time of Day (CST):

MID	1AM	2AM	3AM	4AM	5AM	6AM	7AM	8AM	9AM	10AM	11AM
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	14%
Noon	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
5	3	2	2	3	5	0	1	0	0	0	0
18%	11%	7%	7%	11%	18%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%



2020 Iowa Tornado Summary

The 2020 tornado season kicked off on March 28th, with nine tornadoes across central and eastern Iowa. Most damage was to trees and sheds or outbuildings, however in Oelwein multiple apartment buildings sustained significant damage. It would then be nearly two months before another tornado occurred in Iowa. Five tornadoes occurred on May 23rd with the two strongest occurring to the southeast of Cedar Rapids. On May 25th, Memorial Day, a single tornado went through Johnston in the Des Moines metro. While it went through a densely populated area, nearly all reported damage was to trees and power line poles rather than homes and businesses. The next day brought seven more tornadoes, with another occurring in a suburb of Des Moines - this time in Waukee. This tornado caused minor damage to a church before moving into open farmland. The strongest tornado of the day occurred south of Eagle Grove, resulting in significant tree damage and destroying a large machine shed. The next tornado occurred on June 18th when one weak tornado occurred in Kossuth county in a rural field with no damage. There was a relatively long break in activity from June 19th through all of July until several tornadoes touched down during the August 10th derecho. 3 tornadoes were recorded in Marshall county with another one in Tama county and another in Linn county as the derecho plowed through the state. Fortunately, no injuries or deaths were observed with the tornado activity in 2020.

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