

LINCOLN COUNTY TORNADO GUIDE (1950-2024)

Updated: 1/1/25

| Event | Date | | | Time | | F/EF | Width | Path |
|-------|-------|-----|------|-------------|---|------|---------|---------|
| # | Month | Day | Year | (CST) | Start / End Location | Rank | (Yards) | (Miles) |
| 1 | 5 | 3 | 1955 | 18:00 | Irma | 1 | 33 | 7.0 |
| 2 | 6 | 30 | 1958 | 17:30 | 1 NW Gleason | 2 | 50 | 2.0 |
| 3 | 9 | 3 | 1961 | 17:00 | 12 W Merrill | 1 | 50 | 1.0 |
| 4 | 7 | 24 | 1962 | 17:00 | Corning | 2 | 50 | 1.0 |
| 5 | 6 | 26 | 1969 | 17:00 | 2 SE Tomahawk - Pelican Lake | 1 | 50 | 22.0 |
| 6 | 9 | 28 | 1971 | 14:15-16:05 | 19 W Merrill - Merrill | 2 | 300 | 19.0 |
| 7 | 6 | 13 | 1976 | 20:45-21:00 | 9 E Merrill - 11 NW Antigo | 1 | 50 | 10.8 |
| 8 | 6 | 16 | 1979 | 15:30-15:45 | 2 N Irma | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| 9 | 6 | 14 | 1991 | 11:55 | 8 WNW Merrill | 1 | 50 | 1.0 |
| 10 | 7 | 18 | 1996 | 16:20-16:30 | 1.5 SW - 3 SSE Tomahawk | 1 | 100 | 3.0 |
| 11 | 7 | 16 | 1997 | 14:38-14:40 | 11.5 ESE - 12 SE Merrill | 2 | 100 | 0.5 |
| 12 | 3 | 29 | 1998 | 19:28-19:35 | 3 W - 3 N Tomahawk | 0 | 75 | 4.5 |
| 13 | 5 | 5 | 1999 | 16:30-16:31 | 1 WNW Tomahawk | 0 | 25 | 0.1 |
| 14 | 4 | 18 | 2002 | 15:49 | 2 W Bradley | 0 | 25 | 0.1 |
| 15 | 7 | 30 | 2002 | 17:47-17:50 | 10.5 - 9.5 NW Merrill | 0 | 150 | 1.2 |
| 16 | 7 | 30 | 2002 | 18:08-18:28 | 5 N - 9.5 NE Merrill | 0 | 200 | 9.0 |
| 17 | 7 | 30 | 2002 | 18:25 | 8.5 NE Merrill | 0 | 25 | 0.1 |
| 18 | 9 | 30 | 2002 | 18:30-18:35 | 8 W - 4.5 WNW Tomahawk | 2 | 250 | 3.0 |
| 19 | 7 | 11 | 2004 | 15:45 | Irma | 0 | 10 | 0.1 |
| 20 | 7 | 11 | 2004 | 16:13 | 6 W Tomahawk | 0 | 10 | 0.1 |
| 21 | 7 | 11 | 2004 | 16:13 | 6 W Tomahawk | 0 | 10 | 0.1 |
| 22 | 7 | 11 | 2004 | 16:40 | 4 W Tomahawk | 0 | 10 | 0.1 |
| 23 | 4 | 10 | 2011 | 17:08-17:41 | 2 N Hamburg - 1 SW Bloomberg | 3 | 1,050 | 21.2 |
| 24 | 7 | 9 | 2013 | 13:59-14:04 | 0.5 NE Schultz - 3.9 W Bloomville | 0 | 100 | 4.1 |
| 25 | 7 | 19 | 2019 | 17:47-18:00 | 7.5 NNW Spirit Falls - 6.8 NW Tomahawk | 0 | 50 | 6.5 |
| 26 | 7 | 28 | 2021 | 19:39-19:44 | 4.8 SE Merrill - 2.8 NE Granite Heights | 1 | 300 | 2.7 |
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LINCOLN COUNTY TORNADOES

Event 1: May 3, 1955

The F1 tornado touched down in Irma, approximately 9 miles north of Merrill around 6 PM CST. The tornado traveled 7 miles and had a maximum width less than 50 yards. Lincoln County Sheriff Alfred Giese stated in the Rhinelander Daily News that a tornado ripped through several farms and wooded lot country about 9 miles north of Merrill. Giese stated that three barns were blown down and that communications between Merrill and the State Traffic Patrol Headquarters in Tomahawk was disrupted for a while. Two people were trapped in the wreckage and were freed by sheriff officers and highway crews. No homes were damaged.

Event 2: June 30, 1958

The brief F2 tornado touched down around 5:30 PM CST a mile northwest of Gleason. The tornado traveled approximately 2 miles and reached a maximum width of 50 yards. According to the Rhinelander Daily News, the United States Weather Bureau stated a Northwest Orient Airlines plane and an Antigo radar station both reported radar echoes with the dangling hooks characteristic of tornado clouds.

Event 3: September 3, 1961

The F1 tornado touched down 12 miles west of Merrill around 5 PM CST. The tornado was 50 yards wide and was on the ground for a mile.

Event 4: July 24, 1962

The F2 tornado touched down briefly in the town of Corning around 5 PM CST. The tornado traveled about a mile and had a maximum width of 50 yards. The tornado destroyed a barn and other buildings in the town of Corning.

Event 5: June 26, 1969

The F1 tornado traveled 22 miles across Clark, Taylor, and Lincoln Counties. The tornado did major damage from the Withee area in northern Clark County around 4:10 PM CST. Two persons were injured and about ten farms sustained damage. Major damage from the tornado was reported at the Taylor County Airport near Medford around 4:30 PM CST. Seven planes and one hangar suffered severe damage. The tornado entered western Lincoln County and traveled to near Pelican Lake around 5 PM CST before dissipating. Five more farms suffered serious damage in northeast Lincoln County. Tree and wire damage termed “worst ever” by utilities in the northern resort areas.

Event 6: September 28, 1971

The F2 tornado was first sighted across portions of Clark and Taylor Counties. The tornado moved into Lincoln County 19 miles west southwest of Merrill around 2:15 PM CST. The tornado traveled 19 miles and reached a maximum width of 300 yards before dissipating near Merrill. Several farms were damaged or destroyed by the tornado across Clark, Taylor, and Lincoln counties. The storm summary does not indicate where the heaviest damage occurred.

Event 7: June 13, 1976

The F1 tornado first reached the ground near Highway 64 in extreme southeast Lincoln County around 8:45 PM CST. The tornado then moved into western Langlade County about 3 miles north of Highway 64. The tornado skipped along to near county Highway I about 11 miles northwest of Antigo where it was last reported. The tornado was 50 yards wide and traveled nearly eleven miles. The only report of damage was some downed trees.

Event 8: June 16, 1979

The F1 tornado developed 2 miles north of Irma around 3:30 PM CST. The tornado moved to 2 miles northeast of Irma before dissipating at 3:45 PM CST.

LINCOLN COUNTY TORNADOES

Event 9: June 14, 1991

The F1 tornado touched down 8 miles west northwest of Merrill around 11:55 AM CST. The tornado was 50 yards wide and was on the ground for a mile. The tornado destroyed several trees, a barn and damaged a roof and porch of a house.

Event 10: July 18, 1996

The F1 tornado touched down a mile and a half southwest of Tomahawk at 4:20 PM CST. The tornado uprooted two trees at Bradley Park, then moved southeast across Lake Mohawkskin, flipping two boats over. The tornado moved back on land and tore part of a roof off a tavern while a garage was removed from its foundation. It continued to move into the Road Lake area where it produced its most significant damage. Three cottages were damaged after trees fell on them. The tornado reached a maximum width of 100 yards before it dissipated nearly three miles southeast of Tomahawk around 4:30 PM CST.

Event 11: July 16, 1997

The F2 tornado touched down in eleven and a half miles southeast of Merrill around 2:38 PM CST. The storm traveled under a mile to the southeast into Marathon County before dissipating 12 miles southeast of Merrill around 2:40 PM CST. The tornado reached a maximum width of 100 yards. As the storms rolled through Lincoln County, softball size hail was reported northeast of Merrill.

Event 12: March 29, 1998

The F0 tornado touched down in 3 miles west of Tomahawk at 7:28 PM CST. The tornado was 75 yards wide and traveled four and a half miles before dissipating 3 miles north of Tomahawk at 7:35 PM CST. The tornado damaged several sheds, garages and a pole building west of Tomahawk. The storm also downed many power poles, disrupting power to thousands of customers.

Event 13: May 5, 1999

The F0 tornado touched down a mile west northwest of Tomahawk at 4:30 PM CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile before dissipating at 4:31 PM CST.

Event 14: April 18, 2002

The brief F0 tornado touched down 2 miles west of Bradley at 3:49 PM CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile. The tornado snapped several trees.

Event 15: July 30, 2002

The F0 tornado touched down ten and a half miles west of Merrill around 5:47 PM CST. The tornado was 150 yards wide and skipped along the ground for 1.2 miles before dissipating nine and a half miles west of Merrill around 5:50 PM CST.

Event 16: July 30, 2002

The F0 tornado developed 5 miles north of Merrill at 6:08 PM CST. The tornado was 200 yards wide and traveled on the ground for 9 miles before dissipating nine and a half miles northeast of Merrill at 6:28 PM CST. The tornado destroyed a barn and another structure, tearing roofs from some buildings and moving others from their foundation.

Event 17: July 30, 2002

The F0 tornado formed 8.5 miles northeast of Merrill in Lincoln County at 6:25 PM CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile. The tornado demolished a mobile home and snapped trees and tree limbs.

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Event 18: September 30, 2002

The F2 tornado developed 8 miles west of Tomahawk around 6:30 PM CST. The tornado traveled approximately 3 miles to the northeast and reached a maximum width of 250 yards before dissipating four and a half miles northwest of Tomahawk around 6:35 PM CST. The tornado did significant damage, uprooting or snapping off thousands of trees along its path. A house in the path of the tornado suffered major structural damage, a camping trailer was thrown 300 feet, and a car was thrown into a tree coming to rest at least fifteen feet above the ground. Two barns were also destroyed.

Event 19: July 11, 2004

The brief F0 tornado touched down in Irma at 3:45 PM CST. The tornado was 10 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile.

Event 20: July 11, 2004

The brief F0 tornado touched down 6 miles west of Tomahawk at 4:13 PM CST. The tornado was 10 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile. A pair of tornadoes touched down simultaneously west of the Tomahawk Airport.

Event 21: July 11, 2004

The brief F0 tornado touched down 6 miles west of Tomahawk at 4:13 PM CST. The tornado was 10 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile. A pair of tornadoes touched down simultaneously west of the Tomahawk Airport.

Event 22: July 11, 2004

The brief F0 tornado touched down 4 miles west of Tomahawk at 4:40 PM CST. The tornado was 10 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile.

Event 23: April 10, 2011



The EF3 tornado developed about 2 miles north of Hamburg at 5:08 PM CST and moved northeast into Lincoln County at 5:10 PM CST. Pine trees were uprooted, and large branches were broken in the path of the storm. One house sustained damage to its siding and several barns were blown down or lost their roofs in Marathon County. The tornado was rated an EF0 in Marathon County. The average width of the tornado in Marathon County was 100 yards. The tornado reached EF3 intensity on the north side of Merrill in Lincoln County at approximately 5:22 PM CST where 22 homes and 7 businesses were destroyed. Several homes lost nearly all exterior and some interior walls. In addition, 22 homes and one business sustained major damage, and 20 homes and four businesses sustained minor damage. A 67 year old male was thrown over 200 feet from his bedroom and suffered broken ribs, a ruptured spleen and a bruised lung. Another person sustained minor injuries. The tornado tore a path over 20 miles long in Lincoln County before dissipating. The maximum width of the tornado was six tenths of a mile (1,050 yards) wide. The average width was about 400 yards.

LINCOLN COUNTY TORNADOES

Event 23: April 10, 2011 Continued



Event 24: July 9, 2013

The EF0 tornado touched down a half mile northeast of Schultz, or about six miles south of Irma in Lincoln County at 1:59 PM CST. The tornado moved east for about 4.1 miles and was 100 yards wide (average width was 75 yards). A few trees and power lines were knocked down. The tornado dissipated 3.9 miles west of Bloomville at 2:04 PM CST.

Event 25: July 19, 2019

The EF0 tornado touched down just over seven miles north-northwest of Spirit Falls in Lincoln County around 5:47 PM CST. The tornado produced scattered tree damage and was seen by the public. Winds were estimated at 75 to 80 mph. The tornado was 50 yards wide and traveled six and a half miles before dissipating at 6 PM CST nearly seven miles northwest of the Tomahawk Regional Airport.

Event 26: July 28, 2021

The EF1 tornado formed at 7:40 PM CST near Pine River or 4.8 miles southeast of Merrill in southern Lincoln County, damaging dozens of trees. The tornado continued south into Marathon County around 7:42 PM CST, damaging dozens of more trees before ending near the intersection of Shady Lane Road and Hazelwood Lane at 7:44 PM CST. The tornado path was estimated at 2.7 miles long, a maximum width of 300 yards and winds estimated around 90 mph.

