

PORTAGE COUNTY TORNADO GUIDE (1950-2024)

Updated: 1/1/25

Event #	Date			Time (CST)	Start / End Location	F/EF Rank	Width (Yards)	Path (Miles)
1	9	26	1951	15:45-16:08	9 SSW Amherst - Bear Creek	4	100	22.3
2	4	3	1956	12:50	3 S Bancroft - 2 NW Amherst	2	100	18.2
3	4	19	1957	16::00	Coddington - Bancroft	1	30	12.6
4	6	23	1962	19:00	15 E Stevens Point	0	N/A	N/A
5	8	22	1964	14:00	6 W Bancroft - Grant	2	300	7.0
6	7	7	1970	15:00	Bancroft	2	100	2.0
7	12	1	1970	07:00	Hull	1	200	2.7
8	6	9	1974	14:45	Bancroft	1	30	2.5
9	6	12	1976	20:30	1 W Alban	2	50	0.2
10	6	12	1976	21:00	Amherst	1	50	0.3
11	6	13	1976	19:00	Plover	2	50	0.3
12	6	13	1976	18:40-19:20	4 W Wisconsin Rapids - 3 NE Stevens Point	1	100	13.0
13	3	30	1982	14:05-14:40	Armenia - 3 SW Stevens Point	1	35	28.0
14	4	27	1984	14:15	0.5 S Plover	2	220	5.5
15	5	8	1988	17:12	3 W Keene	0	25	1.0
16	5	16	1992	14:30	5 N Junction City	1	400	1.3
17	5	16	1992	18:10-18:30	4 W Keene - 5 SE Amherst	2	400	11.0
18	10	8	1992	17:12	4 NE Blaine	1	100	2.0
19	6	23	2004	18:46-18:48	3 NNW Almond - 3 NNE Almond	1	25	1.5
20	6	23	2004	18:47	Whiting	0	10	0.1
21	6	23	2004	18:53-18:56	3 SE Blaine - 5 ESE Blaine	1	100	2.5
22	5	22	2011	17:03-17:20	5.5 SSE Cranmoor - 4.8 SE Arnott	1	700	31.6
23	7	9	2013	16:44-16:45	4.2 S Bancroft	0	25	0.2
24	7	12	2017	19:30-19:32	2.2 S Custer - 2.3 NNE Arnott	0	30	0.7

TORNADO REFERENCE GUIDE – PORTAGE COUNTY

Event 1: September 26, 1951

The F4 tornado touched down 9 miles south southwest of Amherst around 3:45 PM CST. The tornado then cut through the towns of Waupaca and Lebanon in Waupaca County. The tornado traveled 22.3 miles and reached a maximum width of 100 yards before dissipating 2 miles southwest of Bear Creek in Waupaca County around 4:08 PM CST. A family of five was killed near Waupaca; while a 40 year old woman was killed near New London when a farm home was flattened.

Event 2: April 3, 1956

A strong spring storm killed 43 people nationwide, including eight in Wisconsin on this date. The F2 tornado developed 3 miles south of Bancroft around 12:50 PM CST. The tornado traveled 18.2 miles to two miles northwest of Amherst before dissipating. The tornado reached a maximum width of 100 yards. Two fatalities were reported in Portage County.

Event 3: April 19, 1957

The F1 tornado touched down in Coddington, 12 miles southwest of Bancroft around 4 PM CST. The tornado traveled over 12 miles and reached a maximum width of less than 50 yards before dissipating in Bancroft.

Event 4: June 23, 1962

The F0 tornado touched down 15 miles east of Stevens Point around 7 PM CST.

Event 5: August 22, 1964

The F2 tornado touched down six miles west of Bancroft and traveled approximately 7 miles to the town of Grant around 3 PM CST. The tornado had a maximum width of 300 yards.

Event 6: July 7, 1970

The F2 tornado touched down in Bancroft around 3 PM CST. The tornado moved east southeast for two miles and reached a maximum width of a hundred yards before dissipating. Damage was confined to a machine shed and tore the roof off a new school.

Event 7: December 1, 1970

A rare tornado event occurred across north central and northeast Wisconsin on this date. In all, there were four tornadoes on this date, including an F3. What made this event even more unusual was the time of day with all four tornadoes reported between 7 AM and 10:45 AM in the morning. The F1 tornado touched down on the Richard Rutta farm in the town of Hall north of Stevens Point. The tornado was 200 yards wide and traveled nearly 3 miles before dissipating.

Event 8: June 9, 1974

The F1 tornado formed in Adams County and then moved into southwest Portage County where it touched down briefly on the Sawyer Farm Route 1, Bancroft around 2:45 PM CST. The tornado was 30 yards wide and traveled two and a half miles. The tornado damaged a barn, a chicken coop, and a porch on house. Only minor tree damage was noted.

Event 9: June 12, 1976

The F2 tornado touched down a mile west of Alban around 8:30 PM CST. The tornado only traveled about a quarter of a mile and reached a maximum width of fifty yards. The tornado leveled a mobile home a mile west of Alban.

Event 10: June 12, 1976

The F1 tornado touched down near Amherst around 9 PM CST. The tornado was 50 yards wide and traveled around a quarter of a mile. The Amherst High School roof was ripped off.

TORNADO REFERENCE GUIDE – PORTAGE COUNTY

Event 11: June 13, 1976

The F2 tornado was observed by the police chief of Plover around 7 PM CST. The tornado touched down at the intersection of Highway 54 and County B. The tornado was only on the ground for about a quarter of a mile and had a maximum width of about fifty yards.

Event 12: June 13, 1976

The F1 tornado formed 4 miles west of Wisconsin Rapids in Wood County around 6:40 PM CST. The tornado continued to move east northeast to three miles northeast of Stevens Point near the intersection of Highway 51 and Business 51 before dissipating around 7:20 PM CST three miles northeast of Stevens Point. The tornado traveled nineteen miles (13 miles in Portage County) and reached a maximum width of 100 yards. Many trees were flattened. In Stevens Point, scattered damage was reported just north of the city and a roof was blown off an apartment complex. Several other buildings also suffered damage. Two people in the apartment complex were injured from fallen debris.

Event 13: March 30, 1982

The F1 tornado initially touched down in the township of Armenia in Juneau County where it destroyed a house and 3 nearby mobile homes. Two occupants of the house were injured. The tornado then moved northeast to just southeast of Nekoosa in Wood County around 2:05 PM CST. The tornado traveled intermittently on a 28 miles path before dissipating 3 miles southwest of Stevens Point around 2:40 PM CST.

Event 14: April 27, 1984

There were ten tornadoes on this date across the entire state. The F2 tornado touched down a half mile south of Plover in Portage County around 2:15 PM CST. The tornado was 220 yards wide and traveled five and a half miles before dissipating. At least nine homes and numerous sheds and barns were destroyed. A bun feeder wagon was thrown 150 yards which snapped a sixty-five feet cement silo. Ping pong size hail accompanied the storm.

Event 15: May 8, 1988

The F0 tornado touched down in rural areas 3 miles west of Keene around 5:12 PM CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and traveled a mile before dissipating.

Event 16: May 16, 1992

The F1 tornado touched down 5 miles north of Junction City around 2:30 PM CST. The tornado was 400 yards wide and traveled 1.3 miles before dissipating. The tornado damaged three homes, two sheds, and a mobile home roof 5 miles north of Junction City.

Event 17: May 16, 1992

The F2 tornado touched down 4 miles west of Keene around 6:10 PM CST. The tornado was 400 yards wide and traveled eleven miles to 5 miles southeast of Amherst before dissipating around 6:30 PM CST. The tornado tossed a mobile home in the middle of a road in Plover Township and damaged fourteen homes, two farms, and a large amount of irrigation equipment.

Event 18: October 8, 1992

The F1 tornado touched down about 4 miles northeast of Blaine and moved through the township of Lanark around 5:12 PM CST. The tornado was 100 yards wide and was on the ground for 2 miles. Ten homes and buildings were damaged, a barn and garage destroyed, and numerous trees were knocked down.

Event 19: June 23, 2004

The F1 tornado touched down 3 miles west northwest of Almond around 6:46 PM CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and was on the ground for a mile and a half before dissipating 3 miles north northeast of Almond around 6:48 PM CST. The tornado knocked down several trees and a fence, damaged the roof of a house and damaged some outbuildings.

TORNADO REFERENCE GUIDE – PORTAGE COUNTY

Event 20: June 23, 2004

The F0 tornado touched down in Whiting at 6:47 PM CST. The tornado was 10 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile. The tornado caused minor tree damage in an industrial park in Whiting. Eyewitnesses observed water being sucked out of a pond at the same time as doors to an office was sucked open.

Event 21: June 23, 2004

The F1 tornado touched down 3 miles southeast of Blaine in southeastern Portage County around 6:53 PM CST. The tornado was 100 yards wide and traveled two and a half miles to 5 miles east southeast of Blaine at 6:56 PM CST. The tornado downed trees and overturned an irrigation system.

Event 22: May 22, 2011

The EF1 tornado moved out of Juneau County at 5:03 PM CST and moved across southern Wood County. The storm hit a campground on the east shore of the Wisconsin River about three miles south of Nekoosa. Over 100 pine trees were snapped and uprooted on the campground, some two feet in diameter. Several camper vehicles were damaged by fallen trees. The tornado was seen by campground visitors just before 5:15 PM CST. The tornado continued east-northeast and snapped or uprooted hundreds of additional trees south of Wisconsin Rapids. The storm damaged at least six homes and several other buildings about six miles south-southeast of Wisconsin Rapids. One of the houses lost the entire roof of a garage. A woman was in the garage at the time. She sustained injuries when the garage fell on the truck that she was taking shelter in. This area experienced a high-end EF1 damage with winds at least 95 to 105 mph. The tornado entered Portage County around 5:20 PM CST. The tornado moved across mainly farmland. The twister continued to snap trees and overturn agricultural irrigation systems. About six miles south of Plover, a nearly half-mile long row of power poles was bent over. The tornado crossed Interstate 39 at Coddington Road two miles west of Keene. The tornado grew to nearly 700 yards wide as it passed just north of Keene and heavily damaged a farmstead. A silo was damaged, and a barn was flattened. Several outbuildings were also damaged or destroyed. Along the path, at least two dozen irrigation systems were overturned and damaged resulting in over one million dollars in losses. Many hundreds of trees were snapped or uprooted. This area experienced high end EF1 damage with winds of 100 to 110 mph. The tornado dissipated about 9 miles southeast of Plover at 5:46 PM CST. The average width was 300 yards in Portage County.

Event 23: July 9, 2013

The EF0 tornado touched down 4.2 miles south of Bancroft in Portage County around 4:44 PM CST in an open field just west of Interstate 39. The tornado was observed by a storm spotter and did no damage. The maximum width was 25 yards and traveled less than two tenths of a mile before dissipating at 4:45 PM CST.

Event 24: July 12, 2017

The EF0 tornado touched down just over two miles south of Custer in Portage County around 7:30 PM CST. The tornado produced minor crop damage and damaged the roof of an outbuilding which resulted in the building losing a wall. The tornado was 30 yards wide and traveled seven tenths of a mile before dissipating just over two miles north-northeast of Arnott around 7:32 PM CST.