

VILAS COUNTY TORNADO GUIDE (1950-2024)

Updated: 1/1/25

Event #	Date			Time (CST)	Start / End Location	F/EF Rank	Width (Yards)	Path (Miles)
	Month	Day	Year					
1	5	4	1964	18:00-18:10	Saint Germain	1	125	7.0
2	6	26	1969	16:30	2 W Manitowish Waters - 3 SW Presque Is.	1	35	9.0
3	6	26	1969	17:00	Lac Du Flambeau - 9 NW Land O Lakes	2	35	28.9
4	7	7	1970	19:00	Winchester - Boulder Junction - Conover	1	N/A	37.9
5	7	12	1973	03:00	Boulder Junction - Sayner	1	100	19.5
6	6	13	1981	20:45	Sayner - 3 NE Sayner	1	50	3.0
7	7	3	1983	04:39	Eagle River	1	20	0.5
8	4	27	1984	14:37-15:07	Fawn Lake - Star Lake	3	880	29.0
9	7	24	1986	14:15	Saint Germain	1	50	0.3
10	7	29	1988	20:30	Eagle River	1	50	0.1
11	8	1	1988	18:52	1 W Saint Germain	1	50	1.0
12	8	1	1988	19:22	2 SE Eagle River	0	25	0.3
13	4	26	1994	14:55-15:05	1.5 N Conover - 3 SE Land O'Lakes	1	150	4.5
14	7	14	1995	16:40-16:47	Phelps	1	250	3.5
15	8	9	2020	18:44-18:58	0.3 SSW Star Lake - 4.7 W Conover	1	400	6.2
16	8	9	2020	19:28-19:36	3.8 ESE S. Germain - 2.0 SW Eagle River	1	250	5.9

TORNADO REFERENCE GUIDE – VILAS COUNTY

Event 1: May 4, 1964

The F1 tornado was first reported 10 miles southwest of St. Germain around 6 PM CST. The tornado traveled just over 7 miles before dissipating in St. Germain at 6:10 PM CST. The tornado had a maximum width of 125 yards. The local storm report indicated the tornado touched down twice and crossed over the Big St. Germain drawing water to a height of 200 feet. There was considerable damage to resorts and woods in the path of the tornado.

Event 2: June 26, 1969

According to the local storm report, the F1 tornado skipped northeast through the forests of Price, southeast Iron and western Vilas Counties. The tornado struck Vilas County from 2 miles west of Manitowish Waters around 4:30 PM CST and moved to three miles southwest of Presque Isle. Most of the damage occurred around Manitowish Waters.

Event 3: June 26, 1969

The F2 tornado formed near Lac Du Flambeau around 5 PM CST and skipped northeast for nearly 29 miles. The tornado dissipated along the Michigan border 9 miles northwest of Land O' Lakes. Maximum width of the tornado was 35 yards. Resort areas from Fence Lake northeastward across Big Crooked and High Lakes suffered damage.

Event 4: July 7, 1970

The F1 tornado developed across Iron County in northwest Wisconsin. The tornado traveled east southeastward for nearly 38 miles across Vilas County around 7 PM CST. The tornado traveled from Winchester to Boulder Junction to Conover. Extensive damage to woods and lake property were noted in the path of the tornado.

Event 5: July 12, 1973

The F1 tornado was struck touchdown just south of Boulder Junction around 3 AM CST. The tornado was 100 yards wide and traveled 19.5 miles before dissipating near Sayner. Scattered damage to the woods was reported along the path of the tornado.

Event 6: June 13, 1981

The F1 tornado touched down at County Highway N about a half mile north Sayner. The tornado moved east for three miles through the dense forest and cross the intersection of Highway N and Highway G then dissipated. The tornado damaged electric lines, telephone poles and trees. The tornado was fifty yards wide.

Event 7: July 3, 1983

The Eagle River Municipal Airport was hit by the F1 tornado at 4:39 AM CST. The tornado was 20 yards wide and traveled a half mile before dissipating. Two single engine planes were destroyed and thirteen others were damaged. Five eighths inch ropes holding the planes down were shredded. One plane cart wheeled four hundred feet.

Event 8: April 27, 1984

The F3 tornado developed near Fawn Lake in Oneida County around 2:37 PM CST. The tornado traveled to near Star Lake in Vilas County before dissipating around 3:07 PM CST. The tornado leveled several thousand acres of forest, destroyed or damaged 80 homes and cabins, ripped up docks and tossed boats in the air or wrapped them around trees. A Fawn Lake man was killed after getting his family to safety. The hardest hit areas were Fawn Lake, Two Lakes, Hasbrook and Gilmore Lakes in Oneida County. In Vilas County, the hardest hit areas were St. Germain Lake, Lost Lake and Star Lake. The tornado traveled 29 miles and reached a maximum width of 880 yards.

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Event 9: July 24, 1986

The F1 tornado briefly touched down around 2:15 PM CST on South Shore Drive near Little St. Germain Lake near St. Germain. The tornado was 50 yards wide and traveled a quarter of a mile. Five buildings, some garages, some boats and docks were damaged. A dozen trees were snapped off at the base.

Event 10: July 29, 1988

The brief F1 tornado touched down in the Eagle River around 8:30 PM CST. The tornado was 50 yards wide and only traveled a tenth of a mile. The tornado damaged the Northland Pines High School in Eagle River. Winds accompanying the storm downed signs and trees in the Eagle River area.

Event 11: August 1, 1988

The F1 tornado touched one mile west of St. Germain around 6:52 PM CST. The tornado was 50 yards wide and traveled one mile. The tornado caused falling trees to damage cars and buildings one mile west of St. Germain. Another tornado (F0) was reported at 7:22 PM CST two miles southeast of Eagle River.

Event 12: August 1, 1988

The F0 brief tornado occurred 2 miles southeast of Eagle River around 7:22 PM CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and traveled three tenths of a mile. The tornado damaged some trees.

Event 13: April 26, 1994

The F1 tornado touched down a mile and a half north of Conover around 2:55 PM CST. The tornado was 150 yards wide and traveled four and a half miles before dissipating 3 miles southeast of Land O' Lakes around 3:05 PM CST. The tornado damaged a house just north of Conover and leveled hundreds of trees along its four and a half mile path into the Nicolet National Forest.

Event 14: July 14, 1995

The F1 tornado touched down a mile and a half southwest of Phelps around 4:40 PM CST. The tornado was 250 yards wide and traveled east for three and a half miles before dissipating just southeast of Phelps at 4:47 PM CST. Trees fell on cars, homes and businesses.

Event 15: July 20, 2020

The EF1 tornado touched down three tenths of a mile south southwest of Star Lake in Vilas County around 6:44 PM CST. The tornado produced a path of tree damage from the eastern shore of Start Lake to the Upper Bucktabon Springs State Natural Area. Peak winds were estimated at 95 mph. The tornado was 400 yards wide and was on the ground for 6.2 miles before dissipating 4.7 miles west of Conover around 6:58 PM CST.

Video / Still Image by Christopher Hofmeister



Event 16: August 9, 2020

The EF1 tornado touched down near 3.8 miles east southeast of St. Germain in Vilas County around 7:28 PM CST. The tornado produced tree damage from east of St. Germain to southwest of Eagle River with intermittent touchdowns along the Wisconsin River. Peak winds were estimated around 90 mph. The tornado was 250 yards wide and had a path length of nearly three quarters of a mile before dissipating around 7:36 PM CST.