SEPTEMBER TORNADO / WATERSPOUT GUIDE (1950-2024)

FOR NORTH CENTRAL AND NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

Updated: 1/1/25



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BROWN MENOMINEE

CALUMET OCONTO

DOOR ONEIDA

FOREST OUTAGAMIE

FLORENCE PORTAGE

KEWAUNEE SHAWANO

LANGLADE VILAS

LINCOLN WAUPACA

MANITOWOC WAUSHARA

MARATHON WINNEBAGO

MARINETTE WOOD

Event	F/EF	Date			Time		TOR in GRB Service Area
#	Rank	Month	Day	Year	(CST)	Start / End Location	County or Counties
1	3	9	18	1950	14:30	2 N Waupaca - Weyauwega	Waupaca
2	4	9	26	1951	15:45-16:08	9 SSW Amherst - 2 SW Bear Creek	Portage - Waupaca
3	2	9	3	1961	00:10	Fenwood	Marathon
4	1	9	3	1961	01:00	Athens	Marathon
5	1	9	3	1961	17:00	12 W Merrill	Lincoln
6	1	9	19	1963	18:00	Laona	Forest
7	3	9	28	1971	14:00-16:05	23 NE Eau Claire - Athens	Marathon
8	3	9	28	1971	16:00-17:20	3 NE Brokaw - Middle Inlet	Marathon- Langlade - Oconto - Marinette
9	2	9	28	1971	14:15-16:05	19 SW Merrill - Merrill	Lincoln
10	2	9	16	1972	16:05	4 NW Wabeno - 2 N McAllister	Forest - Marinette
11	1	9	20	1980	23:15	Mattoon	Shawano
12	2	9	24	1984	16:50	13.5 WSW Wausau - Wausau	Marathon
13	0	9	19	1988	16:05	1 E Plainfield	Waushara
14	0	9	19	1988	16:37	1 W Edgar	Marathon
15	0	9	14	1991	18:00	2 W Green Valley	Shawano
16	0	9	9	1999	14:55	3 N Sister Bay (waterspout)	Door
17	0	9	19	1999	16:46-17:10	8 SE Sturgeon Bay (waterspout)	Door
18	0	9	6	2001	18:09-18:14	0.3 SSW - 1.3 NNE Pelican Lake	Oneida
19	0	9	2	2002	17:04-17:06	5.2 W - 5 W Athens	Marathon
20	1	9	2	2002	17:35-17:43	6 NW Wausau - 4 NE Wausau	Marathon
21	1	9	30	2002	18:10-18:11	5.5 SSE - 5.5 SE Spread Eagle	Florence
22	2	9	30	2002	18:30-18:35	8 W - 4.5 WNW Tomahawk	Lincoln
23	0	9	13	2005	17:09-17:12	De Pere - Allouez	Brown
24	0	9	29	2006	09:20-09:55	Chambers Is 12 SE Cedar River (waterspout)	Door
25	0	9	18	2012	17:01	3 W Sister Bay	Door

Event 1: September 18, 1950

The F3 tornado touched down in Waupaca County 2 miles north of Waupaca around 2:30 PM CST. The tornado traveled to Weyauwega before dissipating. Storm data was not available at this time and I could not find any additional newspaper articles on this tornado event.

Event 2: September 26, 1951

The F4 tornado touched down 9 miles south southwest of Amherst in Portage County 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 400 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 in a farm home.

Event 3: September 3, 1961

The F2 tornado touched down near Fenwood in Marathon County around 12:10 AM CST and traveled about 2 miles. The tornado was 35 yards wide. Damage was confined to farm buildings and crops in rural western Marathon County.

Event 4: September 3, 1961

The F1 tornado touched down near Athens in Marathon County around 1 AM CST. The tornado was 35 yards wide and was on the ground for 2 miles.

Event 5: September 3, 1961

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

Event 6: September 19, 1963

The F1 tornado tore through the village of Laona in Forest County around 6 PM CST. The tornado was less than 50 yards wide and traveled one mile before dissipating.

Event 7: September 28, 1971

A cold front moving through the state triggered scattered thunderstorms across the state. On this date, two long tracked F3 tornadoes were noted from near Stanley in western Wisconsin to Oconto County. The first tornado touched down 23 miles northeast of Eau Claire just south of Boyd and Stanley in Chippewa County around 2 PM CST. The tornado continued just south of Owen, north of Curtiss and south of Dorchester in Clark County. The tornado then moved into Marathon County south of Athens then weakened over Hamburg before finally dissipating just north of Merrill in Lincoln County around 4:05 PM CST. The tornado reached a maximum width of 300 yards and traveled 75 miles before dissipating. Damage was estimated near two million dollars.

Event 8: September 28, 1971

The second F3 tornado developed over the town of Hewitt northeast of Wausau in Marathon County around 4 PM CST. The town hall and four barns were destroyed in Hewitt. The tornado continued east northeast into Langlade County, passing about 6 miles south of Antigo and moved across the extreme northwest corner of Menominee County just south of White Lake. The tornado moved into Oconto County near Mountain, and then into Marinette County to Middle Inlet where the tornado dissipated around 5:20 PM CST. The tornado traveled 78 miles and reached a maximum width of 300 yards. The most severe damage occurred at Mountain where damage to buildings and trailers were estimated at \$200,000 dollars. Extensive damage to property and trees was reported in the Boulder Lake area where the lake level was reported to have dropped 5 inches. One person was injured at White Lake and four injuries were noted at Mountain, none seriously.

Event 9: 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 10: September 16, 1972

The F2 tornado formed 4 miles northwest of Wabeno in Forest County around 4:05 PM CST. The tornado tracked south of Athelstane, north of Wausaukee and into upper Michigan. The track reentered Wisconsin about 2 miles north of McAllister and cross over the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation Grand Rapids Power Dam. The tornado reentered upper Michigan 3 miles southwest of Ingalls around 5:15 PM CST moving across Highway 41 about two miles north of Wallace. The final path length of the tornado was 53 miles with the tornado reaching a maximum width of 200 yards. Several barns were flattened in the Wabeno area, otherwise damage was mainly to woods and overhead wires.

Event 11: September 20, 1980

The Mattoon area of Shawano County was struck by the F1 tornado around 11:15 PM CST. The tornado was 35 yards wide and traveled a half mile before dissipating. Several buildings were damaged by the tornado.

Event 12: September 24, 1984

The F2 tornado touched down thirteen and a half miles west southwest of Wausau in Marathon County around 4:50 PM CST, or one mile south of Highway P and one mile west of Highway 107. The tornado was 150 yards wide and traveled 12 miles before lifting on the east side of the Wisconsin River near Wausau. The tornado caused \$2.2 million dollars in damage in the townships of Emmett, Mosinee, Marathon, and Rib Mountain. Three homes were destroyed, eight sustained major damage and several barns and sheds were leveled. Numerous trees were reported down. The storm was accompanied by baseball size hail one mile northeast of Rothschild.

Event 13: September 19, 1988

The brief F0 tornado developed one mile east of Plainfield in Waushara County at 4:05 PM CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and only traveled a tenth of a mile. Little damage was noted in the monthly storm report.

Event 14: September 19, 1988

The brief F0 tornado developed one mile west of Edgar in Marathon County at 4:37 PM CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and only traveled a tenth of a mile. Little damage noted in the monthly storm report.

Event 15: September 14, 1991

The F0 tornado touched down briefly 2 miles west of Green Valley in Shawano County around 6:00 PM CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and only traveled a tenth of a mile. Damage was confined to some trees and a pair of sheds.

Event 16: September 9, 1999

The F0 waterspout was reported 3 miles north of Sister Bay in Door County at 2:55 PM CST.

Event 17: September 19, 1999

The crew of a ship off the Door County shoreline 8 miles southeast of Sturgeon Bay spotted the F0 waterspout at 4:46 PM CST. The waterspout dissipated around 5:10 PM CST. There may have been other waterspouts in the vicinity of the one reported.

Event 18: September 6, 2001

The F0 tornado touched down three tenths of a mile south southwest of Pelican Lake in Oneida County around 6:09 PM CST. The tornado was 30 yards wide and was on the ground for a half mile before dissipating 1.3 miles north northeast of Pelican Lake around 6:14 PM CST. The tornado caused minor damage to the Pelican Lake Supper Club, blew the roof off a nearby house and destroyed a garage. The tornado also caused minor damage to the Pelican Lake Town Hall and uprooted several trees.

Event 19: September 2, 2002

The F0 tornado touched down 5.2 miles west of Athens in Marathon County at 5:04 PM CST. The tornado was 75 yards wide and was on the ground for two tenths of a mile before dissipating at 5:06 PM CST. The tornado caused minimal damage.

Event 20: September 2, 2002

The F1 tornado developed 6 miles northwest of Wausau in Marathon County around 5:35 PM CST. The tornado was 200 yards wide and was on the ground for five miles before dissipating 4 miles northeast of Wausau around 5:43 PM CST. The tornado destroyed two barns, a garage and a shed. It also snapped hundreds of trees, heavily damaged 6 homes and caused minor damage to 25 others. At least two vehicles traveling on Highway 51 were blown off the road. A trailer being towed by one of the vehicles was blown over and a large road sign hit the vehicle. The driver was injured and transported to the hospital.

Event 21: September 30, 2002

The F1 tornado touched down in southeast Florence County, five and a half miles south southeast of Spread Eagle around 6:10 PM CST. The tornado was 400 yards wide and traveled seven tenths of a mile before dissipating five and a half miles southeast of Spread Eagle around 6:11 PM CST. The tornado destroyed a pole barn, a garage that was under construction and 6 to 10 outbuildings. 150 to 250 trees and power lines were downed, causing numerous power outages. The tornado tracked east-northeast across the Menominee River into upper Michigan where it continued to do damage.

Event 22: September 30, 2002

The F2 tornado developed 8 miles west of Tomahawk in Lincoln County 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 23: September 13, 2005

The F0 tornado touched down in De Pere in Brown County at 5:09 PM CST. The tornado was 50 yards wide and the brief touchdowns lasted for 1.9 miles before the tornado dissipated in Allouez just north of Heritage Hill State Park at 5:12 PM CST. The tornado's occasional brief touchdowns topped numerous trees. Some of the trees caused damage to buildings and vehicles when they fell. The tornado caused little direct structural damage to any buildings.

Event 24: September 29, 2006

The F0 waterspout was reported off Door County, from Chambers Island to 12 miles southeast of Cedar River, Michigan around 9:20 AM CST. The last report of the waterspout was around 9:55 AM CST.

Event 25: September 18, 2012

The brief EF0 waterspout was observed on the waters of the Bay of Green Bay three miles west of Sister Bay around 5:01 PM CST. The time of the event was estimated based on the time of 911 calls. A strong upper-level trough and cold air aloft produced conditions favorable for waterspout formation on the waters of Green Bay.