

Tornado Impact-Based Warnings



The National Weather Service issues Tornado Warnings when there is evidence of a tornado or developing tornado, providing the public with advance notice to protect lives and property.

These warnings are **impact-based**, detailing the hazard, source, and impact information. This provides additional context to media and emergency managers, facilitating improved public response and decision making.



All Tornado Warnings trigger **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs)**. Learn more about WEAs at [weather.gov/wrn/wea](https://www.weather.gov/wrn/wea).

Damage Threat Tags

Tornado Damage Threat Tag	Explanation
Base (no tag)	Default threshold for a Warning, issued when there is radar indication and/or reliable reports of a tornado or developing tornado
CONSIDERABLE (Particularly Dangerous Situation)	Issued in rare situations when there is a considerable threat to life and property due to a strong, ongoing tornado
CATASTROPHIC (Tornado Emergency)	Issued in exceedingly rare situations when a violent tornado capable of producing catastrophic damage and a severe threat to human life is ongoing

Source Information Tags

Tornado Source Information Tag	Explanation
TORNADO...RADAR INDICATED	Radar indication of a tornado or developing tornado, but the tornado is not confirmed
TORNADO...OBSERVED	Evidence of an ongoing tornado via radar confirmation (e.g., debris indicated) or reliable reports

