

Arkansas Weather Statistics for 2023

Tornadoes

(30 tornadoes, 5 fatalities, 89 injuries)

Note: Roughly 37 tornadoes occur annually (based on a thirty year average from 1991 to 2020). Tornadoes rated EFU (where “U” is unknown) indicate unknown damage because there was no damage to survey.

1. 3 miles SW of Norphlet (Union Co.), January 2, 1147 AM - An EF1 tornado had a path length of 0.2 mile.
2. 4 miles WNW of Hot Springs Village to 5 miles NW of Hot Springs Village (Garland Co.), January 2, 238 PM - An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.1 miles. (2 injuries)
3. 2 miles S of Berlin to 1 mile ESE of Halley (Ashley, Chicot, and Desha Cos.), January 2, 654 PM - An EF2 tornado had a path length of 43.3 miles.
4. 5 miles WSW of Kilbourne to 9 miles SW of Eudora (West Carroll Parish, LA and Chicot Co., AR), January 2, 902 PM - An EF0 tornado had a path length of 3.9 miles.
5. 4 miles SW of Waldo to 1 mile NNE of Waldo (Columbia Co.), January 18, 1034 AM - An EF1 tornado had a path length of 5.1 miles.
6. 7 miles NW of Junction City to 2 miles SSW of El Dorado (Union Co.), January 18, 1240 PM - An EF1 tornado had a path length of 9.3 miles.
7. 2 miles E of Arbaugh to 6 miles ENE of Arbaugh (Newton Co.), February 16, 115 AM - An EF1 tornado had a path length of 3.4 miles.
8. 2 miles WSW of Pindall to 4 miles SE of Bruno (Searcy and Marion Cos.), February 16, 159 AM - An EF2 tornado had a path length of 11.0 miles. (2 injuries)
9. 6 miles SW of Marshall to 4 miles SW of Marshall (Searcy Co.), February 16, 222 AM - An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.4 miles.

10. 6 miles WSW of Fouke to 5 miles NE of Bloomburg (Miller Co.), March 2, 558 PM - An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.8 miles.
11. 6 miles ENE of Daisy to 5 miles SW of Glenwood (Pike Co.), March 2, 1050 PM - An EF2 tornado had a path length of 1.8 miles. (5 injuries)
12. 2.1 miles ENE of Tulip to 1.6 miles W of Cooney (Dallas Co.), March 2, 1243 AM - An EF0 tornado had a path length of 4.3 miles.
13. 4 miles SSE of Wabbaseka (Jefferson Co.), March 3, 157 AM - An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.7 mile.
14. 7 miles NNW of Alexander to 4 miles SE of Austin (Pulaski and Lonoke Cos.), March 31, 218 PM - An EF3 tornado had a path length of 34.4 miles. (1 fatality, 54 injuries)
15. 9 miles WSW of Des Arc to 8 miles WSW of Des Arc (Prairie Co.), March 31, 345 PM - An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.1 miles.
16. 5 miles SE of Fair Oaks to 2 miles SE of Burlison (Cross Co., AR, Crittenden Co., AR, Mississippi Co., AR, and Tipton Co., TN), March 31, 430 PM - An EF3 tornado had a path length of 73.0 miles. (4 fatalities, 26 injuries)
17. 8 miles SSE of Big Flat to 3 miles SSW of Fifty-Six (Stone Co.), March 31, 449 PM - An EF2 tornado had a path length of 6.8 miles.
18. 2 miles WNW of Lexa to 1 mile NNE of Lexa (Phillips Co.), March 31, 703 PM – An EFU tornado had a path length of 2.8 miles over open fields.
19. 1 mile NNW of Weathers to 3 miles NE of Weathers (Madison Co.), April 5, 547 AM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 2.8 miles.
20. 2.5 miles W of Oak Grove to 4.1 miles NE of Oak Grove (Carroll Co.), April 5, 603 AM – An EFU tornado had a path length of 1.9 miles (based on radar and video/photographs).
21. 4.5 miles ENE of Warbritton (Jefferson Co.), May 10, 105 PM – An EFU tornado briefly touched down in an open field.
22. 5 miles S of Hamburg (Ashley Co.), May 11, 1241 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 0.5 mile.

23. 2 miles SSW of Scranton to 3 miles ESE of Morrison Bluff (Logan Co.), June 18, 112 AM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 5.4 miles.
24. 1.1 miles NE of Toad Suck to 1.2 miles NE of Toad Suck (Perry Co.), June 18, 212 AM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.2 mile.
25. 5 miles SW of Pocahontas to 0.4 mile S of Manson (Randolph Co.), June 18, 457 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 5.0 miles.
26. 7 miles SE of Calion to 8 miles NNE of Strong (Union Co.), June 18, 815 PM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 10.3 miles.
27. 2 miles ENE of Dover to 3 miles ENE of Dover (Pope Co.), June 25, 419 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 0.6 mile.
28. 3 miles WSW of Cato (Pulaski Co.), June 25, 537 PM – An EFU tornado briefly touched down.
29. 1 mile SSE of Stamps to 3 miles S of Stamps (Lafayette Co.), July 12, 343 AM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.9 miles.
30. Mansfield to Liberty (Sebastian Co.), July 14, 403 AM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 3.4 miles.

Thunderstorm (Straight-Line) Winds (2 fatalities, 3 injuries)

90 to 100 mph

- 1.5 miles SE of Frenchmans Bayou (Mississippi Co.), March 31
- Brightstar to State Line (Miller and Lafayette Cos.), June 14

80 to 90 mph

- Rison (Cleveland Co.), March 1
- 4 miles N of Carthage (Dallas Co.), March 3
- 2.1 miles S of Scott Valley (Lee Co.), March 31
- Berryville (Carroll Co.), April 5
- Center Ridge (Conway Co.), April 5
- 3 miles NE of Russellville (Pope Co.), April 15
- 2 miles ENE of Jerusalem (Conway Co.), April 15

Branch (Franklin Co.), June 17
Alicia (Lawrence Co.), June 25
Marked Tree (Poinsett Co.), June 25

75 to 80 mph

2.5 miles NE of Dabney (Van Buren Co.), February 16
1 mile NE of Damascus to 4 miles NE of Damascus (Van Buren Co.), March 2
6.8 miles N of Mt. Vernon (Faulkner Co.), March 2
2.4 miles E of Lexa (Phillips Co.), March 31
2 miles SSW of Sidney to 1 mile S of Sidney (Sharp Co.), April 5
Fort Smith (Sebastian Co.), June 17
Tomberlin (Lonoke Co.), June 25
McCreanor (Lonoke Co.), June 25
Lambethville (Crittenden Co.), June 25
Mountainburg (Crawford Co.), August 11

Stuttgart (Arkansas Co.), March 31 – A man driving a parcel delivery truck from Pine Bluff (Jefferson Co.) encountered strong winds from an incoming thunderstorm during the afternoon. He tried to find shelter in the back of the truck when the vehicle was impaled by a tree limb. The limb grazed his arm, and he was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital.

Conway (Faulkner Co.), June 25 – Damaging straight-line winds downed a tree onto a home and pinned a woman to the ground. She was injured and taken to a local hospital.

Carlisle (Lonoke Co.), June 25 – Damaging thunderstorm gusts downed a tree onto a mobile home. A 64-year-old woman and 40-year-old man were killed (mother and son). A third person (father) in the structure was injured.

Non-Thunderstorm Winds **(0 fatalities, 0 injuries)**

Hail **(0 fatalities, 0 injuries)**

4.50 inches

Thola (Searcy Co.), June 25

4.00 inches

2 miles NNE of Sims (Montgomery Co.), June 14
Royal (Garland Co.), June 14
2 miles NW of Crystal Springs (Garland Co.), June 14
3 miles WNW of Slabtown (Grant Co.), June 14
Star City (Lincoln Co.), June 14
DeGray (Clark Co.), June 14

3.50 inches

Star City (Lincoln Co.), June 14

3.00 inches

Woodlawn (Cleveland Co.), March 1
2 miles NE of Lake Hamilton (Garland Co.), June 14
1 mile S of Malvern (Hot Spring Co.), June 14
Landis (Searcy Co.), June 25
Timbo (Stone Co.), June 25
Mountain View (Stone Co.), June 25
2 miles WNW of Gold Hill (Pope Co.), June 25

2.75 inches

6 miles SW of Magnolia (Columbia Co.), April 15
Clarendon (Monroe Co.), June 11
5 miles NW of Ben Lomond (Sevier Co.), June 13
Winthrop (Little River Co.), June 13
Percy (Garland Co.), June 14
2 miles NW of Royal (Garland Co.), June 14
3 miles SSW of Abco (Hot Spring Co.), June 14
Hot Springs Village (Garland/Saline Cos.), June 16
2 miles E of Traskwood (Saline Co.), June 16
Sheridan (Grant Co.), June 16

2.50 inches

Ash Flat (Sharp Co.), April 5
Alma (Crawford Co.), April 15
Mulberry (Crawford Co.), April 15
1 mile N of Botkinburg (Van Buren Co.), April 15
1 mile SSE of Roy (Pike Co.), June 13

2 miles NW of Birta (Yell Co.), June 14
Rockwell (Garland Co.), June 14
Pearcy (Garland Co.), June 14
Red Oak (Garland Co.), June 14
1 mile N of Springfield (Conway Co.), June 14
2 miles S of Star City (Lincoln Co.), June 14
Tyro (Lincoln Co.), June 14
Salus (Newton Co.), June 25
Chimes (Van Buren Co.), August 7
10 miles SW of Leslie (Searcy Co.), August 7

2.25 inches

Dierks (Howard Co.), June 13

2.00 inches

1 mile WSW of Elm Park (Scott Co.), January 11
West Memphis (Crittenden Co.), February 15
McCaskill (Hempstead Co.), March 31
Cherokee Village (Fulton/Sharp Cos.), April 5
1 mile WSW of Fort Smith (Sebastian Co.), April 15
1 mile S of Garfield (Benton Co.), April 15
Dyer (Crawford Co.), April 15
5 miles SSE of Joan (Clark Co.), April 15
Nashville (Howard Co.), June 13
3 miles ENE of Vilonia (Faulkner Co.), June 14
1 mile NNE of Ward (Lonoke Co.), June 14
4 miles WNW of Clyde (Washington Co.), June 14
1 mile NE of Damascus (Van Buren Co.), June 14
Star City (Lincoln Co.), June 14
Canaan (Searcy Co.), June 25

Floods and Flash Floods (2 fatalities, 1 injury)

Waldron (Scott Co.), March 2 – A pickup truck was swept off of Highway 80 east of town by a swollen Poteau River. The vehicle was found the next morning after the river receded, and the body of the driver (a grandfather trying to visit his grandson) was nearby.

Beebe (White Co.), March 24 – A child was pulled into a drainage culvert and got stuck. The child was rescued and taken to the nearest hospital.

5 miles NW of Paron (Saline Co.), March 24 – A 68-year-old man on a motorcycle apparently tried to cross a road at the Lake Winona spillway. He was swept off the pavement and down the Alum Fork Saline River where he drowned.

Lightning (0 fatalities, 0 injuries)

Plumerville (Conway Co.), June 18 – A home was apparently struck by lightning, a fire started, and the structure burned to the ground. It appears there were no injuries.

Records of Note

Saint Charles (Arkansas Co.), January 3 – A whopping 10.80 inches of rain was measured. This is the highest one day total at the site dating back to 1930.

Cane Creek State Park (Lincoln Co.), January 3 – 7.30 inches of rain was tallied. This was the most rain in one day locally since records began in 1998.

Little Rock National Airport (Pulaski Co.), March 3 – As a storm system intensified and moved over Arkansas early in the day, the barometric pressure dropped to 29.12 inches at 640 am CST. This was the lowest pressure since 1969 locally, and the fifth lowest pressure on record.

North Little Rock Airport (Pulaski Co.), March 3 – The barometric pressure dropped to 29.07 inches at 635 am CST. This was the lowest pressure since data collection began in 1975.

June 14 – One of the largest hail events in state history occurred. There were around two dozen reports of two inch diameter (hen egg size) hail or larger, with six instances of at least softball size hail. The biggest hail mostly occurred with one storm tracking from near Sims (Montgomery Co.) to Hot Springs (Garland Co.), Malvern (Hot Spring Co.), and Star City (Lincoln Co.).

June 18 – Two tornadoes (rated EF2) were spawned in Logan and Union Counties. The last time two tornadoes of at least this magnitude occurred in June was in 1979 (on the 28th).

Notes:

Severe weather events shown above have likely been certified for publication in *Storm Data* (published by the National Centers for Environmental Information) if they occurred more than 60 days prior to the first day of the current month. So, reports in February would be published by May 1st. These entries are still subject to change if additional information is received or errors are found.

Severe weather events will be added as soon as possible after they occur. However, because it often takes several days to survey tornado tracks after a large severe weather outbreak, it may be a week or more before tornadoes can be added to the list.

Beginning and ending points of a tornado are determined by a laptop and a GPS device used during storm surveys. Initially, the points are represented by latitudes and longitudes. At the conclusion of the surveys, nearby towns are used to reference these points. Some of the towns in the database are quite small, and it may be necessary to use commercial map plotting software to locate these communities.