

Iowa Tornadoes



Tornado south of Greenfield,
Iowa on May 21, 2024.
Photo by Isaac Polanski.

2024

Iowa Tornadoes

2024 Quick Facts Compiled by Craig Cogil & Brooke Hagenhoff

Total Number of Tornadoes:	125
Number of Injuries:	44
Number of Deaths:	6 1 - Minden Tornado...April 26 5 - Greenfield Tornado...May 21
Path Length of All Tornadoes:	719.72 miles
Average Path Length:	5.76 miles
Average Width:	161 yards
Longest Path Length Single Tornado:	42.38 miles → Greenfield Tornado
Largest Width Single Tornado:	1900 yards → Minden Tornado
Peak Hour of Tornado Occurrence:	6pm
Peak Month of Tornado Occurrence:	April* and May with 49 each
Most Tornadoes in a Day:	29** on April 26th
Number of Tornado Days:	19

*Monthly Record for April

**Daily Record for April

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2024 Summary

2024 was a record year for tornadoes across Iowa. The total number of tornadoes was 125 which was the most ever for a year with the previous record of 120 in 2004. The bulk of the tornadoes were in the spring with a total of 98 for the combined months of April and May. Unfortunately, six deaths occurred from two different tornadoes including one death with a tornado which hit Minden, Iowa and five deaths from the tornado which impacted the community of Greenfield.

The season started out on April 7th with a brief tornado northwest of Williams which damaged a hog confinement building. Tornado activity really kicked into a higher gear on April 16th when 18 tornadoes occurred. The strongest tornado on this day was an EF2 in southeast Iowa which travelled for nearly 42 miles and was on the ground for 56 minutes. Fortunately, it remained in mostly rural areas impacting several different farmsteads but with no injuries or deaths. April 26th brought an outbreak of tornadoes with 29 impacting the state. The most impactful tornado of the day was a long track EF3 which plowed through the southeast edge of Minden, killing an individual. This tornado was also the widest of the year with an impressive width of 1900 yards which is just over a mile wide. The total tornado count for the month was 49 which is the most ever for April. The previous record April was 40 tornadoes in 2001.

May continued the active pace set in April with ten tornadoes spread across the 6th, 7th, 9th, and 20th. Another outbreak of tornadoes occurred on May 21st with several strong to even violent tornadoes. The most impactful tornado hit the community of Greenfield in the middle of the afternoon producing four fatalities in town with an additional death to an individual in a vehicle south of Greenfield. There were also a total of 35 injuries along the path. The total length of this EF4 tornado covered just over 42 miles and was on the ground for 48 minutes. This tornado toppled several large industrial windmills and produced EF4 damage to a few farmsteads south of Greenfield and to several structures as it passed through the town itself. There were also two EF3 tornadoes on this day, one of which started in the north suburbs of Des Moines before passing into Story county producing 4 injuries along its path.

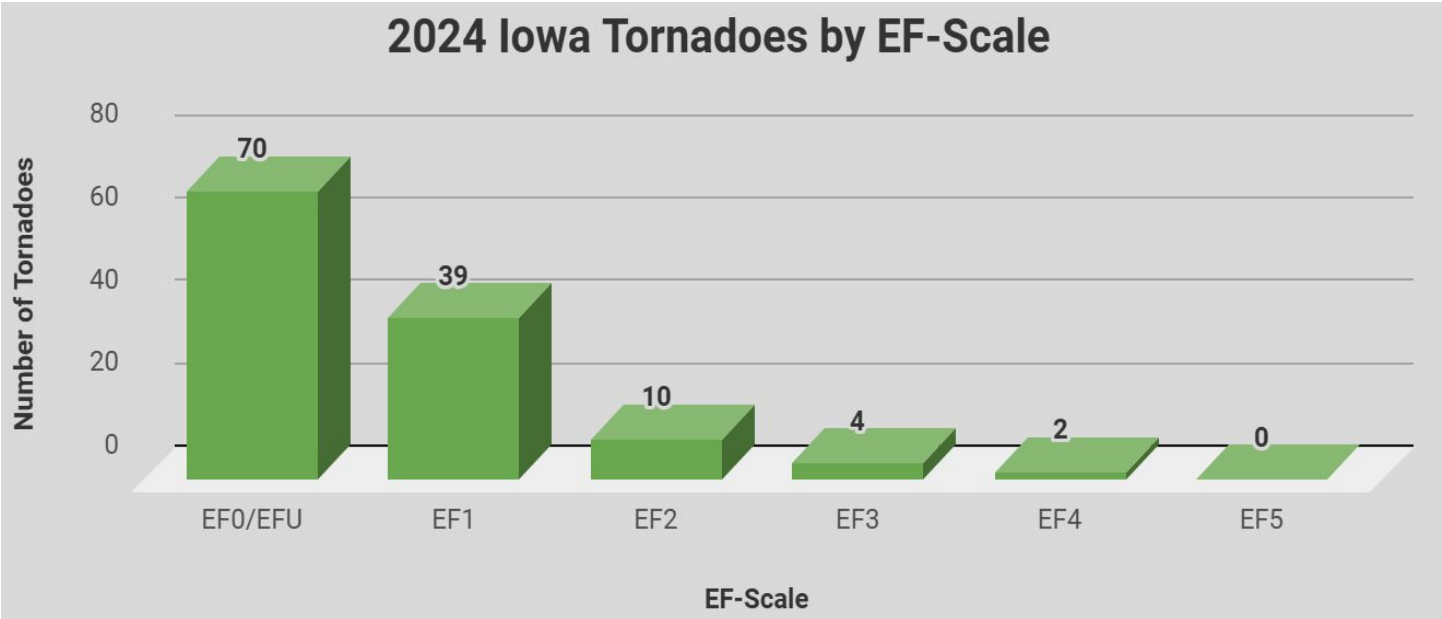
Only three days later, an overnight thunderstorm complex passed through the state from west to east, nearly parallel with Interstate 80. This system produced an additional 23 tornadoes although most were not as impactful as the tornadoes from previous outbreaks. May ended up with 49 tornadoes which was the 2nd most behind May 2004 with 57. The remainder of the year saw a total of 27 tornadoes, the most notable being an EF1 tornado which passed through portions of the Des Moines metro area.

If you have any questions, please contact Craig Cogil at craig.cogil@noaa.gov

2024 Iowa Tornado Statistics

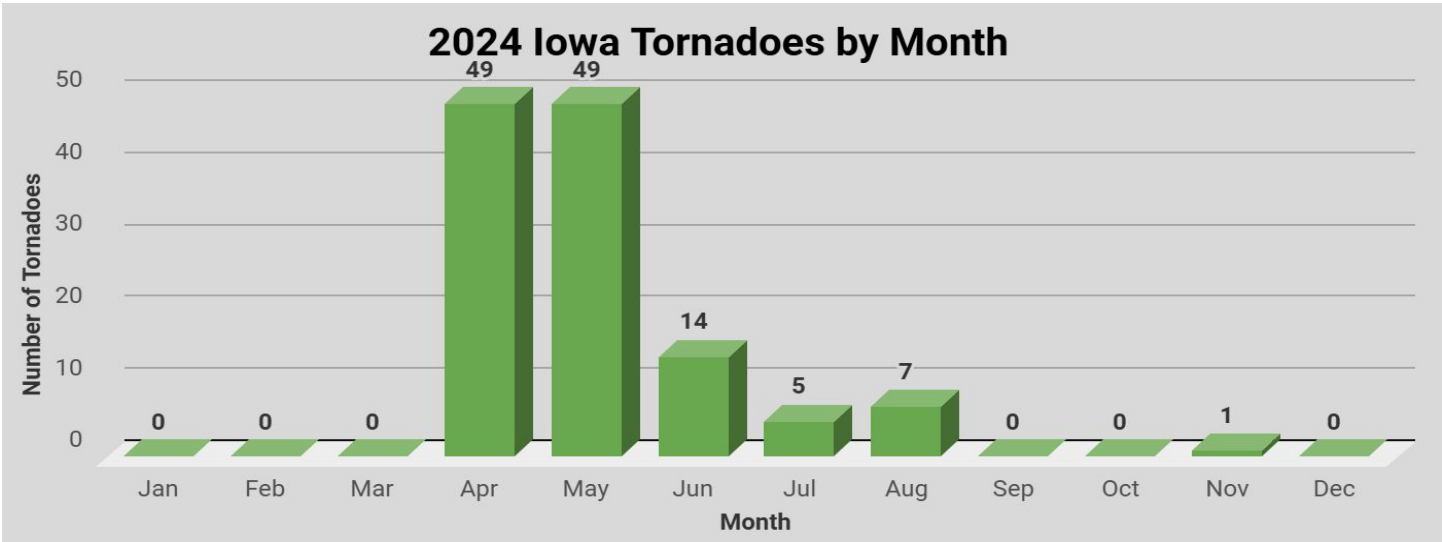
Tornadoes by EF-Scale:

EF0/EFU	EF1	EF2	EF3	EF4	EF5
70	39	10	4	2	0



Tornadoes by Month:

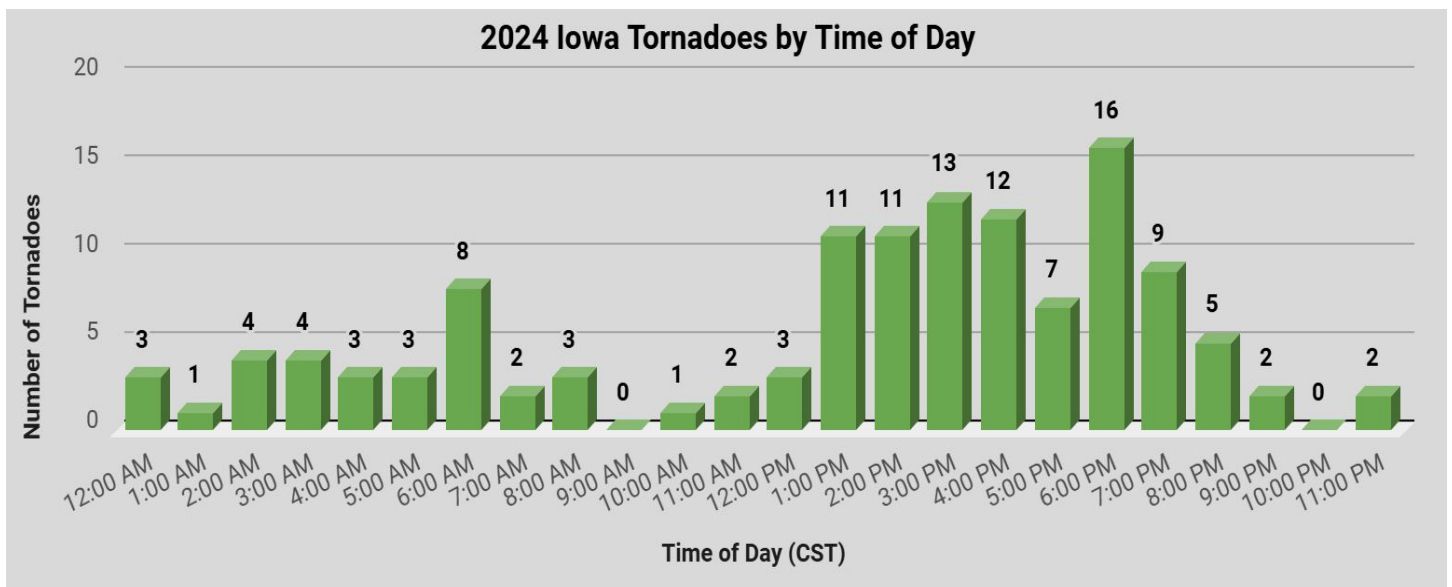
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	49	49	14	5	7	0	0	1	0
0%	0%	0%	39%	39%	11%	4%	6%	0%	0%	1%	0%



2024 Iowa Tornado Statistics

Tornadoes by Time of Day (CST):

MID	1AM	2AM	3AM	4AM	5AM	6AM	7AM	8AM	9AM	10AM	11AM
3	1	4	4	3	3	8	2	3	0	1	2
Noon	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
3	11	11	13	12	7	16	9	5	2	0	2



Additional details on each Iowa tornado that occurred in 2024 can be found on our webpage by clicking [HERE](#).