

TORNADO INFORMATION

WHERE TORNADOES CAN OCCUR:

Any place in the United States at any time of the year. They happen most frequently in the midwestern, southern, and central States from March through September. In Indiana, the northwestern and south-west corner of the state are well above the state average.

HOW OFTEN DO THEY OCCUR:

Indiana averages 23 tornadoes, occurring on 11 days throughout the year. Greater number of reported tornadoes is in April. Other months when tornadoes are most likely to occur include March, May, June and July.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A TORNADO:

Usually a funnel-shaped cloud, spinning rapidly, and extending toward the earth from the base of a thundercloud. When close by, it sounds like the roar of hundreds of airplanes. Because of differences of air pressure (which causes tornadoes to form), violent winds are produced and also a sucking action which can lift automobiles and cause buildings to collapse.

TORNADO "WEATHER":

Hot, sticky days with southerly winds and a threatening, ominous sky. However, many such days do occur without tornadoes.

CLOUDS:

Familiar thunderstorm clouds are present. An hour or two before a tornado, topsy-turvy clouds appear sometimes bulging down instead of up. The clouds often have a greenish-black color.

PRECIPITATION:

Rain, frequently hail, preceding the tornado, with a heavy downpour after it has passed.

TIME OF DAY:

Mostly between 3 and 7 p. m., but tornadoes have occurred at all hours.

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL:

In most cases they move from a westerly direction, usually from the southwest to the northeast. Only 3% come from the north, east or south. Tornadoes have been known to double back and move in circle or remain motionless.

LENGTH OF PATH:

Usually 10 to 40 miles (the average is 13 miles), but they may move forward for 300 miles.

WIDTH OF PATH:

The average width is about 250 yards, but they have cut swaths over a mile in width.

SPEED OF TRAVEL:

25 to 40 miles per hour average, but they have varied from stationary to 68 miles per hour.

WIND SPEED:

Estimated from 100 to 300 m. p. h. within the tornado.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DEFINITIONS:

- SEVERE THUNDERSTORM - Possibility of frequent lightning, damaging winds (58 m. p. h. or greater) accompanied by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of rain.
- SEVERE WEATHER WATCH - Possibility of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms.
- TORNADO WATCH - Existing weather conditions are such that tornadoes are expected to develop.
- TORNADO WARNING - A tornado has been sighted in the area or is indicated on radar.

PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED AS A COURTESY OF *Hook's*