







Tornado Classification

Tornadoes are classified into 6 categories F0 – F5 using the (Enhanced) Fujita scale.

- In rating tornadoes, only surface wind speeds, or the wind speeds indicated by the damage resulting from the tornado, are taken into account.
- Rating is based on the **amount of damage**, ranging from “**weak**” F0 to “**violent**” F5.
- Outside Tornado Alley, and North America in general, **violent tornadoes are extremely rare.**

	Damage: Incredible	EF5
	Windspeeds: Greater than 322km/h (200mph)	
	Damage: Devastating	EF4
	Windspeeds: 267-322km/h (166-200mph)	
	Damage: Severe	EF3
	Windspeeds: 218-266km/h (136-165mph)	
	Damage: Considerable	EF2
	Windspeeds: 178-217km/h (111-135mph)	
	Damage: Moderate	EF1
	Windspeeds: 138-177km/h (86-110 mph)	
	Damage: Light	EF0
	Windspeeds: 105-137km/h (65-85mph)	

F0 and F1 Category



- **“Weak” winds (40-110 mph), little or no structural damage.**
- **Stay on the ground for a mile (1.6 km) or less.**
- **Damage: tree branches snapped, chimneys toppled, signs torn down, siding torn away, windows broken, roof damaged.**
- **In the United States, 80% of tornadoes are F0 and F1.**

F3 Category



- **“Very Strong” winds (136-165 mph).**
- **Severe structural damage and serious risk to life.**
- **Damage: most trees uprooted, trains overturned, roofs torn off, walls demolished, unanchored homes swept away.**

F5 Category



- “Violent” winds (200+ mph, *max of 319 mph observed*).
- Rare: ~0.1% (less than 1% are F4 and F5 combined).
- **Incredible damage**: bark peeled off trees, houses lifted off foundations and completely demolished, vehicles travel greater than 300 feet (100 m) through the air.

US Tornado Frequency

Number of Reported U.S. Tornadoes
by EF Rating
2/2007 - 12/2012

