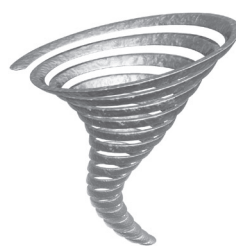


# 2012 Kansas Tornado Facts



*Kansas ranks third in the nation in the number of tornadoes with an average of 49 per year!*

2012 Monthly Tornado Totals

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
EF5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
EF4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1%
EF3	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6%
EF2	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6%
EF1	0	1	0	19	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25%
EF0	0	6	4	27	16	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100%</b>

TORNADOES: 94 (33 above the 1950-2012 average of 61); (14 above the past 30 year average of 80); (18 below the past 10 year average of 112)

FATALITIES: 1 INJURIES: 50

LONGEST TRACK: 50.3 miles (Rice-Ellsworth-McPherson-Saline counties, April 14, EF4)

STRONGEST: EF4 (Rice-Ellsworth-McPherson-Saline counties)

MOST IN A COUNTY: 12 (Rush County - April 14)

TORNADO DAYS: 13 (Days with 1 or more tornadoes)

MOST IN ONE DAY: 43 (April 14) • MOST IN ONE MONTH: 52 (April)

FIRST TORNADO OF THE YEAR: February 28 (Jewell County, 5:28 p.m., 2.4 mile length, 50 yard width)

## Shapes and Sizes of Tornadoes

### Weak Tornadoes

- 69% of all tornadoes
- Less than 5% of tornado deaths
- Lifetime 1-10+ minutes
- Winds less than 110 mph

### Strong Tornadoes

- 29% of all tornadoes
- Nearly 30% of all tornado deaths
- May last 20 minutes or longer
- Winds 110-205 mph

### Violent Tornadoes

- Only 2% of all tornadoes
- 70% of all tornado deaths
- Lifetime can exceed 1 hour
- Winds greater than 205 mph

## Severe Weather Terminology

**Severe Thunderstorm** – The National Weather Service issues severe thunderstorm warnings for thunderstorms that are currently producing or are capable of producing winds of 58 mph or stronger and/or hail one inch in diameter or later. Severe thunderstorms often may be much stronger than this minimum criteria, so it is a good idea to take severe thunderstorm warnings seriously.

**Tornado** – A tornado is a violently rotating column of air, in contact with the ground, either pendant from a cumuliform cloud or underneath a cumuliform cloud, and often (but not always) visible as a funnel cloud. A funnel cloud is a condensation cloud, typically funnel-shaped and extending outward from a cumuliform cloud, associated with a rotating column of air.

**Flash Flood** – A flash flood is flooding that occurs very rapidly, usually within 6 hours of heavy rainfall. Flash flooding may occur along creeks, rivers or streams. It can also occur in low lying or urban areas where drainage is poor. Water levels can rise very quickly during flash flooding including locations that did not receive the heavy rainfall but are located downstream from areas that received an extreme amount of rainfall. Flash flooding can occur in the winter months when rain falls on existing snowpack and causes it to melt rapidly. Flooding is the number one severe weather killer in the U.S.

## Tornado warnings include media, sirens

Several warning systems are in place to ensure Norton County residents are aware of an approaching tornado, including sirens, the reverse 911 system and radio and tv announcements.

Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson said the warning systems are designed to catch the most people. He said sirens are meant to be heard if residents are outside, while the tv or radio can be monitored from inside a home.

“They (the sirens) are an outdoor warning device,” he said.

People can also receive emergency alerts on the reverse 911 system, if they have registered. Registration can be done online, at <https://login.coderedweb.com/codereddataentry/index.cfm?Groupid=1370>

The reverse 911 system calls registered phone numbers several times to warn people about emergencies, such as tornadoes.

Thomson said the warning systems cannot reach everyone, but people need to be proactive and monitor warnings themselves.

“You have to take some responsibility,” he said.

Environmental signs can also be monitored, in addition to the conventional methods.

According to the National Weather Service, signs of an approaching tornado include:

- Strong, persistent rotation in the cloud base.

- Whirling dust or debris on the ground under a cloud base -- tornadoes sometimes have no funnel!

- Hail or heavy rain followed by either dead calm or a fast, intense wind shift.

Many tornadoes are wrapped in heavy precipitation and can't be seen.

- Day or night - Loud, continuous roar or rumble, which doesn't fade in a few seconds like thunder.

- Night - Small, bright, blue-green to white flashes at ground level near a thunderstorm (as opposed to silvery lightning up in the clouds). These mean power lines are being snapped by very strong wind, maybe a tornado.

- Night - Persistent lowering from the cloud base, illuminated or silhouetted by lightning -- especially if it is on the ground or there is a blue-green-white power flash underneath.

EF-SCALE	F-SCALE	DAMAGE
EF-0 65-85 mph	F-0 65-73 mph	Light damage: peels surface from some roofs, some damage to gutters or siding, branches broken from trees, shallow-rooted trees pushed over
EF-1 86-110 mph	F-1 73-112 mph	Moderate damage: roofs severely stripped, mobile homes overturned or badly damaged, loss of exterior doors; windows and glass broken
EF-2 111-135 mph	F-2 113-157 mph	Considerable damage: Roofs torn off houses, foundations shifted, mobile homes destroyed, large trees snapped or uprooted, cars lifted from ground
EF-3 136-165 mph	F-3 158-206 mph	Severe damage: Entire stories of homes destroyed, severe damage to large buildings, trains overturned, trees debarked, cars lifted and thrown
EF-4 166-200 mph	F-4 207-260 mph	Devastating damage: well-constructed houses completely leveled, cars thrown and small missiles generated
EF-5 >200 mph	F-5 261-318 mph	Incredible damage: Strong frame houses leveled and swept away, vehicles fly in excess of 100 yards, high-rise buildings have significant structural damage

## Avoid surprises with your coverage.

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## REMINDER:

**The Code Red,  
Reverse 911 Emergency Calling  
System will only be used in  
life threatening  
or severe property  
damage incidents.**

*In the near future the  
Norton County Sheriff's Department  
will be updating the  
data base for this system. Keep  
watching The Norton Telegram  
for further information as  
the update draws near.*

**Norton County  
Sheriff's Office**

**Emergency - 911**

**Administrative - 785-877-5780**



## Norton City Sirens

**TAKE COVER:** An oscillating tone 8 times means take cover - a tornado has been sighted.

**Sirens Blown One Time—  
means a call for Rural Firemen  
Sirens Blown Two Times—  
means a call for City Firemen**

Turn to KQNK Radio FM 106.7 or 1530 AM. For those who live in the country, the radio station will sound the alert. The sirens are an outdoor warning device. If you are indoors you will need a battery operated radio to hear the all clear alerts and further weather information.



(CUT OUT AND POST)

## Can YOU tell the difference?

**Severe Thunderstorm Watch**  
Severe thunderstorms are likely to occur.

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning**  
Severe thunderstorms have been spotted, and people in the path of the storm are in danger.

**Tornado Watch**  
Tornadoes are possible in the area.  
Stay tuned to the radio or TV and watch the sky.

**Tornado Warning**  
A tornado has been sighted. Take cover at once.

**Be aware of weather around you and  
listen to watches and warnings!**

Post this where you can see it when severe weather occurs

FROM THE

**Norton County Sheriff's Office**  
Emergency - 911 • Administrative - 785-877-5780  
Norton County Emergency Preparedness