



TORNADOES

- Indiana averages 20 tornadoes each year and four tornado related fatalities.
- Tornadoes can occur any time of the year but are most frequent in spring and summer. Tornadoes are most common in the afternoon and evening but can occur at any hour of the day or night.
- Tornadoes usually move towards the northeast around 30 mph but can move in any direction, and at speeds up to 70 mph.
- Most tornadoes have winds less than 100 mph and last about five minutes, causing minor building, tree and power line damage.
- The strongest tornadoes have winds over 200 mph. These account for less than two percent of all tornadoes but nearly sixty percent of all tornado fatalities. The strongest tornadoes are usually on the ground more than 15 minutes and destroy everything in their path.
- On September 20, 2002, Hoosiers experienced the second longest tornado track in its history. Only the Monticello tornado in the April 1974 super outbreak was on the ground longer.
- The largest outbreak of tornadoes in Indiana occurred June 2, 1990, with 37 tornadoes. On Palm Sunday 1965, 137 Hoosiers died in what still is the biggest killer tornado event in Indiana history.
- Severe thunderstorms, at times, are as intense as tornadoes. Typically Indiana has many more severe thunderstorms than tornadoes. Each one may cause major damage or spawn a tornado. So heed severe thunderstorm warnings like tornado warnings.