

Arkansas Weather Statistics for 2008

Tornadoes

(80 tornadoes, 21 fatalities, 225 injuries)

This year is now the second most active tornado year ever recorded in Arkansas. First place is held by 1999 with 107 tornadoes.

1. 2 miles south of Hiwasse (Benton Co.), January 7, 8:05 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.10 mile.
2. 4 miles east of Centerton (Benton Co.), January 7, 8:50 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.10 mile.
3. 3 miles northwest of Gentry to 2 miles southwest of Decatur (Benton Co.), January 7, 11:09 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.60 miles.
4. 1.2 miles south-southwest of Moreland to 2.7 miles west of Beverage Town (Pope, Conway, and Van Buren Cos.), January 8, 8:26 AM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 20.46 miles. One person was killed and two people were injured. The fatality occurred in a mobile home.
5. 0.5 miles south-southeast of Princedale to 0.8 mile east-southeast of Twist (Cross Co.), January 8, 1:26 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 10.61 miles.
6. 1.6 miles east-southeast of Deckerville to 1.7 miles east of Deckerville (Poinsett Co.), January 8, 1:52 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 0.15 mile.
7. 0.7 mile north of Brymar to 1 mile south of Driver (Mississippi Co.), January 8, 2:20 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 3.51 miles.
8. 2 miles southeast of Hamburg to 2.1 miles southeast of Hamburg (Ashley Co.), February 5, 3:26 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 0.62 mile.
9. 1 mile west of Dermott Airport to 0.6 mile north-northwest of Dermott Airport (Chicot Co.), February 5, 4:04 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 1.10 miles.

10. 3.5 miles west-southwest of Preston Place to 3.4 miles west of Preston Place (Phillips Co.), February 5, 4:27 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.16 mile.
11. 1.3 miles northeast of Birta to 1.9 miles northeast of Birta (Yell Co.), February 5, 4:40 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.60 mile.
12. 1.6 miles south-southeast of Neely to 2.4 miles south-southeast of Hardy (Yell Co., Pope Co., back into Yell Co., back into Pope Co., then Conway, Van Buren, Stone, Izard, and Sharp Cos.), February 5, 4:49 PM – An EF4 tornado had a path length of 121.84 miles, making this the longest-tracked tornado in Arkansas history. It stayed on the ground for 2 hours and 7 minutes. Thirteen people were killed and 139 people were injured. Six fatalities occurred in mobile homes, five in houses, one in a boat factory, and one in a large, steel, intermodal shipping container.
13. 3.5 miles northwest of Ware’s Chapel to 1.9 miles east of Whiteville (Marion and Baxter Cos.), February 5, 5:02 PM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 12.50 miles. One person was killed and 36 people were injured. The fatality occurred in a mobile home.
14. 3.7 miles east-northeast of Funston to 1.5 miles east-southeast of El Paso (Faulkner and White Cos.), February 5, 7:05 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 5.46 miles.
15. 1.2 miles west-northwest of Rosenbaum to 1.1 miles west-northwest of Rosenbaum (St. Francis Co.), February 5, 7:19 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.10 mile.
16. 1.4 miles west of Dalton, AR, to 2.1 miles west of Naylor, MO (Randolph Co., AR, and Ripley Co., MO.), February 5, 7:20 PM – An EF1 tornado had a total path length of 31.92 miles, which included 11.96 miles in Arkansas and 19.96 miles in Missouri. Four people were injured in Arkansas.
17. 2 miles west of Junction City to 5 miles north-northeast of Junction City (Union Co.), February 5, 7:30 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 7 miles.
18. 3.9 miles east of Clarendon to 1.5 miles south-southeast of Rich (Monroe Co.), February 5, 7:48 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 7.96 miles.
19. 3.3 miles southwest of Bemis Plantation to 3.2 miles southwest of Bemis Plantation (Lee Co.), February 5, 7:59 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.09 mile.
20. 1.4 miles northeast of Pine Prairie to 3.9 miles southeast of Ashdown (Little River Co.), March 3, 8:27 AM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 3 miles.

21. 1.8 miles south-southwest of Schaal to 1.6 miles south-southwest of Buck Range (Howard Co.), March 3, 8:46 AM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 7.50 miles.
22. 5.4 miles east-southeast of New Edinburg to 1 mile northeast of Rye (Cleveland Co.), March 14, 3:42 AM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 9.40 miles.
23. 2 miles east-northeast of Cherry Hill to 2.3 miles east-northeast of Cherry Hill (Polk Co.), March 17, 9:31 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.30 mile.
24. 3 miles west-southwest of Peter Pender to 4 miles east-northeast of Peter Pender (Franklin Co.), March 18, 11:55 AM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 7 miles.
25. 1.6 miles south-southwest of Slocomb to 1.2 miles west of Saline County Airport (Saline Co.), April 3, 9:02 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 8.10 miles. This tornado began west of Haskell and ended just west of Benton. One person was injured.
26. 1.7 miles west-northwest of Bauxite Junction to 1.1 miles southeast of New Summit (Saline Co.), April 3, 9:23 PM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 2.70 miles. This tornado began on the northeast side of Benton and ended on the northwest side of Bryant. One person was injured.
27. 0.6 mile northeast of New Summit to 2.3 miles north-northwest of Collegeville (Saline Co.), April 3, 9:34 PM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 2.58 miles. This tornado began northwest of Bryant and ended northwest of Alexander.
28. 2 miles north-northwest of Douglasville to 1.5 miles south of Haig (Pulaski Co.), April 3, 9:47 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 4.81 miles. This tornado began just west of the intersection of Interstate 630 and John Barrow Rd., moved through the Leawood subdivision and the city of Cammack Village, dropped off a bluff into Murray Park, crossed the Arkansas River, and ended near the soccer fields in Burns Park. One person was injured.
29. 1 mile north-northwest of Levy to 1.4 miles north-northeast of Gravel Ridge (Pulaski Co.), April 3, 10:06 PM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 7.07 miles. This tornado began near the intersection of Camp Robinson Rd. and Donovan Briley Blvd., passed through the southeast corner of Camp Joseph T. Robinson, moved across the North Little Rock Airport, continued through parts of Sherwood and Sylvan Hills, and ended on the north side of Gravel Ridge.
30. 0.5 mile east-southeast of Gravel Ridge to 0.8 mile west-northwest of Lynch (Pulaski Co.), April 3, 10:14 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 0.70 mile.

31. 0.8 mile west-northwest of Toneyville to 1.7 miles northeast of Toneyville (Pulaski Co.), April 3, 10:23 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.13 miles.
32. 2.9 miles north-northeast of Lambert to 4.9 miles north-northeast of Bismarck (Hot Spring Co.), April 3, 10:28 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 4.19 miles.
33. 3.2 miles southwest of Cabot to 2.2 miles east of Ward (Lonoke Co.), April 3, 10:28 PM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 9.45 miles.
34. 3 miles east-northeast of Mountain Springs to 3.4 miles northeast of Essex (Lonoke and White Cos.), April 3, 10:42 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 13.19 miles.
35. 1.2 miles south-southwest of Diamondhead to 0.8 mile south-southwest of Diamondhead (Garland and Hot Spring Cos.), April 3, 10:50 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.11 miles.
36. 2.8 miles northeast of Floyd to 3.7 miles northeast of Floyd (White Co.), April 3, 11:57 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 0.89 mile.
37. 5.4 miles south-southeast of Dallas to 5.5 miles southeast of Dallas (Polk Co.), April 9, 9:42 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.13 miles.
38. 1.9 miles north-northeast of Sitka to 2.9 miles northeast of Sitka (Sharp Co.), April 10, 4:29 AM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.02 miles.
39. 5.5 miles east-southeast of Stillwell, OK, to 4 miles southwest of Lincoln, AR (Adair Co., OK, and Washington Co., AR), April 10, 5:26 AM – An EF2 tornado had a total path length of 9 miles, which included 3.50 miles in Oklahoma and 5.50 miles in Arkansas.
40. 2.3 miles west-northwest of Black Oak to 1.1 miles east-northeast of Baldwin (Washington Co.), April 10, 5:50 AM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 3 miles.
41. 0.9 mile west-southwest of Wesley to 0.9 mile west-northwest of Wesley (Madison Co.), April 10, 6:02 AM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 0.80 mile.
42. 1.1 miles west-northwest of Alabam to 2.6 miles west of Cabanal (Madison and Carroll Cos.), April 10, 6:20 AM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 10.70 miles.
43. 3.1 miles northeast of Prattsville to 3.2 miles south-southeast of East End (Grant and Saline Cos.), April 10, 10:56 AM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 15.06 miles.

44. 1 mile east-northeast of Birdtown to 2.1 miles north-northwest of Fivemile (Conway, Van Buren, and Cleburne Cos.), May 2, 8:15 AM – An EF3 tornado had a path length of 45.30 miles. Five people were killed and 24 people were injured. Three fatalities occurred in houses and two were in mobile homes.
45. 1.4 miles west-southwest of Damascus to 0.5 mile west-northwest of Damascus (Van Buren Co.), May 2, 8:28 AM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.05 miles. This was a satellite tornado of Tornado #44.
46. 2.4 miles southeast of Umpire to 2.5 miles southwest of Henry (Howard Co.), May 2, 9:03 AM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 4.10 miles.
47. 3.7 miles west-northwest of Billstown to 0.7 mile north of Delight (Pike Co.), May 2, 10:23 AM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 8.18 miles.
48. 1.4 miles west-southwest of Belfast to 4.8 miles north-northeast of Pettus (Grant, Saline, Pulaski, and Lonoke Cos.), May 2, 11:15 AM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 40.72 miles. One person was killed and three people were injured. The fatality occurred in a mobile home.
49. 2.8 miles north of Bunn to 1.9 miles east-southeast of Junet (Dallas and Grant Cos.), May 2, 11:23 AM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 22.85 miles.
50. 0.6 mile southwest of Carlisle to 0.7 mile south-southeast of Carlisle Airport (Lonoke Co.), May 2, 12:56 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.55 miles.
51. 1.2 miles west-southwest of Maberry to 0.6 mile east of Daggett (Woodruff Co.), May 2, 1:01 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 2.09 miles.
52. 1.2 miles east of Carlisle Airport to 2.1 miles south-southwest of Barrettsville (Lonoke and Prairie Cos.), May 2, 1:02 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.68 miles.
53. 1.5 miles northwest of Center Point to 2.6 miles north-northeast of Center Point (Prairie Co.), May 2, 1:05 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.58 miles.
54. 2.6 miles west-southwest of Saulsburg to 2.3 miles west-southwest of Saulsburg (Monroe Co.), May 2, 1:40 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.35 mile.

55. 1 mile southeast of Three Way to 1.1 miles west of Carrolls Corner (Mississippi Co.), May 2, 2:54 PM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 3.38 miles. One person was injured.
56. 2.6 miles south of Smithdale to 0.6 mile south of Birdsong (Cross, Crittenden, and Mississippi Cos.), May 2, 3:18 PM – An EF3 tornado had a path length of 20.23 miles. Four people were injured.
57. 4 miles northwest of Ashton to 10 miles north of Lake Village (Chicot Co.), May 2, 6:52 PM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 10.52 miles.
58. 4.5 miles southwest of Bentonville to 3.8 miles south-southwest of Bentonville (Benton Co.), May 10, 6:35 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.50 miles.
59. 1.5 miles west of Center Hill to 2.2 miles south of Holly Springs (White Co.), May 10, 7:14 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 9.16 miles.
60. 1.7 miles west-southwest of Russell (White Co.), May 10, 7:42 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.01 mile.
61. 2.2 miles south of Geridge to 8.1 miles south-southwest of Fairmont (Lonoke and Prairie Cos.), May 10, 7:47 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.69 miles.
62. 2 miles east of Watalula (Franklin Co.), May 10, 7:51 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.10 mile.
63. 2 miles southwest of Avon to 1.3 miles south of Avon (Sevier Co.), May 10, 7:55 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.50 miles.
64. 1 mile west-northwest of Fuess to 2.5 miles west-southwest of LaGrue (Arkansas Co.), May 10, 7:57 PM – An EF3 tornado had a path length of 14.05 miles. Nine people were injured. This tornado passed through the southern part of Stuttgart.
65. 1.3 miles north of Tipp to 2.7 miles south-southwest of McManus (Woodruff and Cross Cos.), May 10, 7:57 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 10.18 miles.
66. 2.7 miles southeast of Deep Elm to 2.7 miles east-southeast of Ragtown (Monroe Co.), May 10, 8:26 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 4.41 miles.
67. 2.1 miles southeast of Oakhaven to 2.8 miles north-northeast of Hope (Hempstead Co.), May 10, 9:04 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 1.04 miles.

68. 1.9 miles west of Rosston to 1 mile south-southeast of Rosston (Nevada Co.), May 10, 9:32 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.35 miles.

69. 0.5 mile north of Gid to 1.4 miles northwest of Gid (Izard Co.), September 2, 5:50 PM. – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.9 mile. This tornado was spawned by Tropical Depression Gustav.

70. 4 miles northeast of Lake Village (Chicot Co.), September 3, 6:01 PM – A brief tornado occurred. This tornado was spawned by Tropical Depression Gustav.

71. East of Strong (Union Co.), September 13, 2:47 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of approximately 0.25 mile. This tornado was spawned by Tropical Storm Ike.

72. Huttig (Union Co.), September 13, 3:18 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of approximately 0.5 mile. This tornado was spawned by Tropical Storm Ike.

73. 2.3 miles southwest of Cabot to 2.3 miles west-southwest of Cabot (Lonoke Co.), September 13 – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 0.65 mile. This tornado was spawned by Tropical Storm Ike.

74. 2.5 miles east-southeast of Glen Rose to 2.7 miles south-southwest of Grape (Hot Spring and Saline Cos.), September 13 – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 8.7 miles. This tornado passed through the Crossroads community (near the intersection of Interstate 30 and U.S. Highway 70), which had been damaged by a tornado on April 3. This tornado was spawned by Tropical Storm Ike.

75. 0.8 mile west-northwest of Meaford to 2.2 miles north-northeast of High Point (Garland Co.), September 13 – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.4 miles. This tornado was spawned by Tropical Storm Ike.

76. 1.1 miles east of Houston to 1.5 miles south of Bunker (Perry Co.), September 13 – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.5 miles. This tornado was spawned by Tropical Storm Ike.

77. 0.4 mile southwest of Whittington to 2.7 miles south-southeast of Blocher (Garland and Saline Cos.), September 13 – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2 miles. This tornado was spawned by Tropical Storm Ike.

78. 1.2 miles south-southwest of Aplin to 0.7 mile west-northwest of Aplin (Perry Co.), September 13 – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.3 miles. This tornado was spawned by Tropical Storm Ike.

79. 0.6 mile northwest of Vick to 1.5 miles east-southeast of Ingalls (Bradley Co.), September 13 – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 2.4 miles. This tornado was spawned by Tropical Storm Ike.

80. 1.5 miles west of Ink to 3.5 miles north of Ink (Polk Co.), October 6, 2:46 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 3.4 miles.

Thunderstorm (Straight-Line) Winds (1 fatality, 7 injuries)

110 mph...

2.5 miles north-northwest of Turner to 0.5 mile east-southeast of Westover (Phillips Co.),
May 10.

100 mph...

Texarkana (Miller Co.), May 22.

92 mph....

Booneville Airport to 2 miles northeast of Driggs (Logan Co.), March 18.

80 mph...

8 miles west of Gravette (Benton Co.), January 7.

3 miles northeast of Pea Ridge (Benton Co.), January 8. Four people were injured.
Garfield (Benton Co.), January 8.

2 miles southwest of Excelsior (Sebastian Co.), April 9.

Hindsville (Madison Co.), July 5.

75 mph...

0.3 mile west of Culler to 1 mile north of Culler (Lonoke Co.), January 8.

0.7 mile south-southwest of Paragould Airport (Greene Co.), March 18.

0.8 mile west-northwest of Paragould (Greene Co.), March 18.

0.6 mile south-southeast of Paragould Airport to 0.8 mile east-southeast of Paragould Airport (Greene Co.), March 18.

Thornton (Calhoun Co.), April 8.

Paris (Logan Co.), June 1.

Siloam Springs (Benton Co.), May 2 – One person was killed and another was injured when a tree fell on a mobile home. Winds were estimated at 70 mph.

Branch (Franklin Co.), June 1 – One person was injured when a mobile home was overturned by thunderstorm winds estimated at 70 mph.

Monticello (Drew Co.), June 25 – One person was injured when a tree fell into a house.

Other Strong Winds (Not Associated With Thunderstorms) **(2 fatalities, 2 injuries)**

On January 29th, strong winds killed two people and injured two others. A woman was killed when a tree fell into her home in Lonoke (Lonoke Co.), the driver of an automobile was killed and the passenger was injured when a tree fell on a car as it traveled through Bono (Faulkner Co.), and a truck driver was injured when his empty tractor-trailer overturned 1 mile northeast of Oppelo (Conway Co.).

On September 14th, a man was killed when strong winds from Tropical Depression Ike blew a tree down onto a mobile home 4 miles north of Fisher (Poinsett Co.).

Hail

4.25 inches in diameter (between softball and grapefruit size)...

2.2 miles northeast of Halley Junction to 1.3 miles north-northwest of Hudspeth (Chicot Co.), February 5.

4.00 inches (softball size)...

Texarkana (Miller Co.), March 31.

2.75 inches (baseball size)...

1.1 miles south-southeast of White to 2.3 miles west-northwest of Boydell (Ashley Co.),
February 5.

Van Buren (Crawford Co.), April 9.

Dardanelle (Yell Co.), June 9.

2.50 inches (tennis ball size)...

2 miles north of Jerome (Drew Co.), February 5.

0.6 mile east of Ben Lomond (Sevier Co.), May 10.

2.00 inches (lime size)...

0.6 mile west of Magnolia (Columbia Co.), March 14.

1 mile south of Farmington (Washington Co.), April 22.

Lightning

(1 fatality, 3 injuries)

Little Rock (Pulaski Co.), May 22 – One person was killed by lightning and two others were injured. They were standing beneath a large pine tree when the lightning struck.

0.4 mile southeast of Lake Catherine (Garland Co.), July 31 – One person was injured by lightning. When the lightning struck, he was cutting a limb off a tree while clearing brush on his hunting property.

Flash Floods

(2 fatalities, 1 injury)

Near West Fork (Washington Co.), March 18 – A flash flood fatality occurred when a motorist attempted to drive through a flooded low-water crossing.

Northwest of Onia (Stone Co.), March 18 – A flash flood fatality occurred when a car went off Arkansas Highway 263 into floodwaters. Apparently, flooding covered the intersection of the highway and a county road, and the driver misjudged where his turn was and drove off into the water.

3.7 miles south-southeast of Bunn (Dallas Co.), October 7 – A woman had to be hospitalized after a flash flood washed her car off Arkansas Highway 229. The woman's car eventually came to rest against trees at the edge of the woods and she had to be rescued by a swift-water rescue team.

Other Floods

(4 fatalities, no injuries)

Near Noland (Randolph Co.), April 1 – One flood fatality occurred when a boat capsized in floodwaters near the Black River.

West of Plainview (Yell Co.), April 11 – Two flood fatalities occurred when a motorist drove around barricades on Arkansas Highway 28 and drove into floodwaters. The small pick-up truck floated off the road and the driver and a passenger drowned.

South of Amy (Ouachita Co.), October 8 – One flood fatality occurred when a motorist drove around barricades on Arkansas Highway 7 and drove into floodwaters. The small SUV was washed off the road and overturned. The driver was trapped in the vehicle and drowned.

Notes:

Severe weather events shown above in black have been certified for publication in *Storm Data*, which is published by the National Climatic Data Center. However, these entries are still subject to change if additional information is received or errors are found. Entries appearing in blue have not yet been certified for publication. Typically, certifications occur about two months after the end of a given month. For example, severe weather events that occurred in August will be certified for publication at the end of October.

Severe weather events will be added as soon as possible after they occur. However, because it often takes several days to survey tornado tracks after a large severe weather outbreak, it may be a week or more before tornadoes can be added to the listing.

Tornadoes shown above will sometimes be referenced as being a certain number of miles from a different town than was indicated in the preliminary report sent to the news media. When a storm survey team goes out, a laptop computer and a GPS device are used to mark

the latitude and longitude of the beginning and ending points of a tornado, as well as some intermediate points along the track. At the conclusion of the survey, the points on the laptop are used to compute where the beginning and ending points of the tornado are in relation to nearby towns. For easy reference, the only towns used are those that appear on the official map published by the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department. This information is then sent to the news media, so that they can disseminate the information quickly. A few days or weeks afterwards, the latitude and longitude points are entered into the official Storm Data software that is used by the National Weather Service. This software then computes beginning and ending points in relation to towns that are listed in the Storm Data database. Some of the communities in the database are quite small, and it may be necessary to reference commercial map plotting software such as Mapquest or Google Earth to see the location of these communities. The points that the software computes for tornadoes are those shown in the listing above, and these are the points that will appear when *Storm Data* is published by the National Climatic Data Center.