

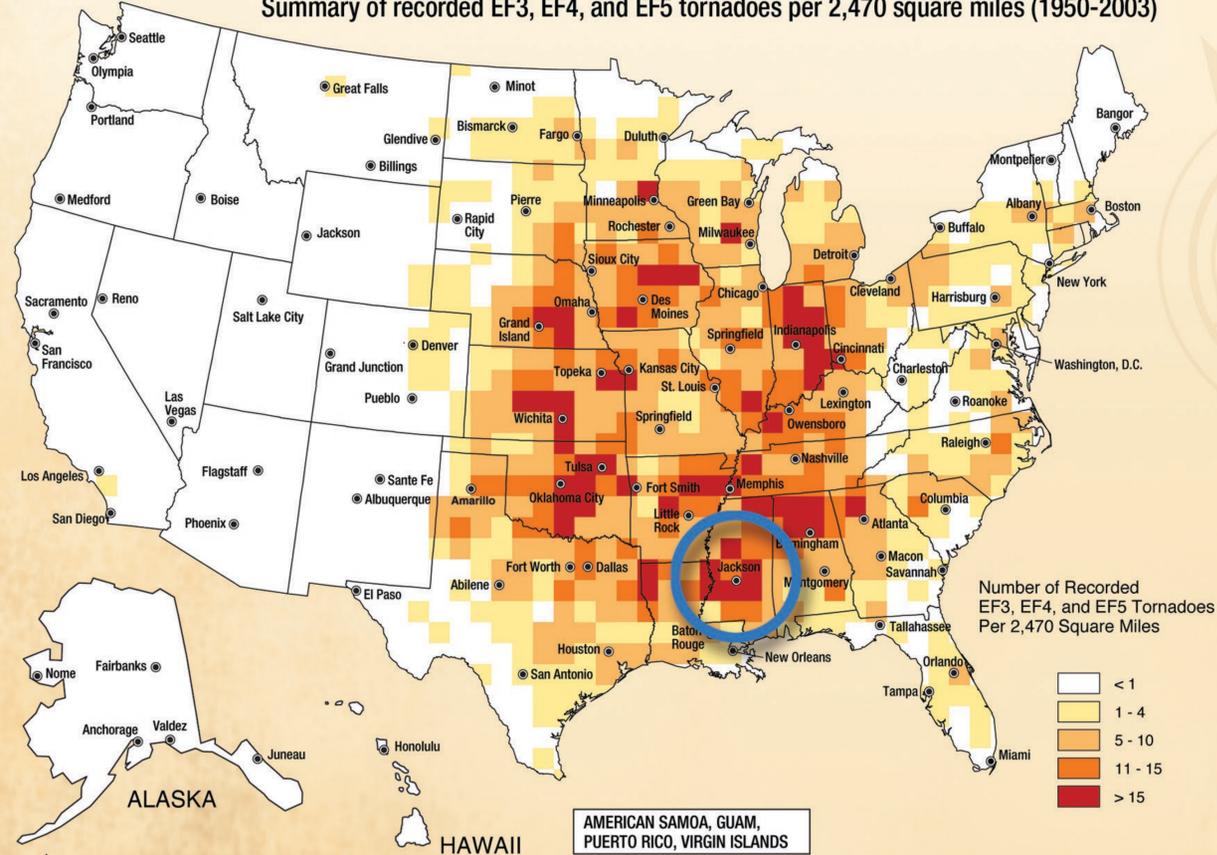
Taking Shelter From the Storm

Safe Rooms. Save Lives.

Every year, tornadoes, hurricanes and other extreme windstorms injure and kill people, and cause millions of dollars worth of property damage in the United States (U.S.). Building a safe room, or shelter, inside your home or small business can help provide “near-absolute protection” for you and your family or employees from injury or death caused by the dangerous forces of extreme winds. On the basis of 60 years of tornado history and more than 150 years of hurricane history, the U.S. has been divided into four zones that geographically reflect the number and strength of extreme windstorms. Zone IV has experienced the most and the strongest tornado activity. Zone III has experienced significant tornado activity and includes coastal areas that are susceptible to hurricanes. A safe room designed and constructed to prescriptive designs found in the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA’s) publication 320, *Taking Shelter From the Storm: Building a Safe Room Inside Your Home or Small Business*, Edition 3, July 2008, (and properly sited to address flood hazards) will meet or exceed the International Code Council (ICC) residential and small community shelter design criteria.

Tornado Activity in the United States

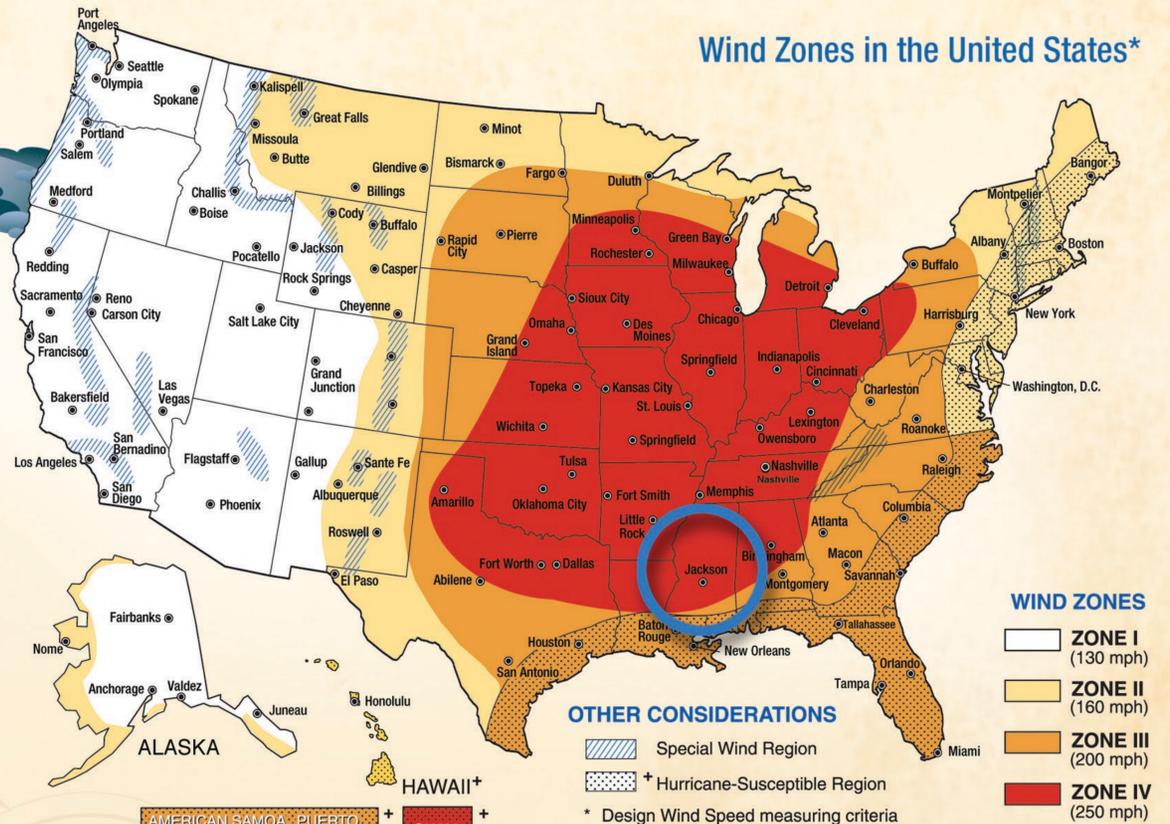
Summary of recorded EF3, EF4, and EF5 tornadoes per 2,470 square miles (1950-2003)



For example, if you live in Jackson, Mississippi, you would see that Jackson is in an area shaded medium orange on the map above. So, according to the map key, the number of tornadoes per 2,470 square miles in the Jackson area is 11-15.



FEMA



Wind Zones in the United States*

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Special Wind Region
- + Hurricane-Susceptible Region
- * Design Wind Speed measuring criteria are consistent with ASCE 7-05
 - 3-second gust
 - 33 feet above grade
 - Exposure C

Jackson appears within the red-shaded area, so the map keys tell you that Jackson, Mississippi is in Wind Zone IV.

The box where the 11-15 row and the Zone IV column meet is shaded dark blue, which shows that you live in an area of high risk. A safe room is the preferred method of wind protection in high risk areas. Note that some areas of low or moderate risk, shown as pale blue or medium blue, are within the region of the U.S. that is subject to hurricanes. If you live in this hurricane-susceptible region, your risk is considered high, even though the FEMA 320 publication worksheet indicates a moderate or low risk.

		WIND ZONE (See Figure 1.4)			
		I	II	III	IV
NUMBER OF TORNADOES PER 2,470 SQUARE MILES (See Figure 1.2)	< 1	LOW RISK	LOW RISK	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK
	1 - 4	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK	HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK
	5 - 10	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK	HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK
	11 - 15	HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK
	> 15	HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK

LOW RISK

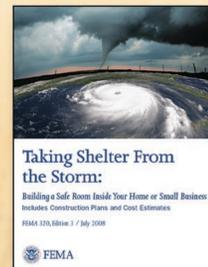
Need for an extreme-wind safe room is a matter of homeowner or small business owner preference.

MODERATE RISK

Safe room should be considered for protection from extreme winds.

HIGH RISK

Safe room is the preferred method of protection from extreme winds.



To download or order a copy of FEMA 320 publication:

www.FEMA.gov/library

For more information on Safe Rooms:

www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/saferoom/

DATA SOURCES: Wind Zone Map: American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 7-05; Tornado Activity Map: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Storm Prediction Center Statistics; FEMA 320, *Taking Shelter From the Storm: Building a Safe Room Inside Your Home or Small Business*.