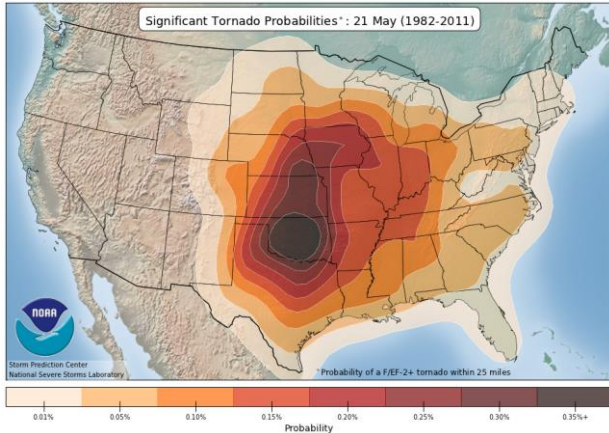


# Tornadoes

[Audio Public Service Announcement \(PSA\)](#)

## Tornadoes do Occur in Western New York!



Since 1950 WNY has experienced 69 tornadoes, with Erie County alone experiencing 18. Tornado Alley refers to the area in the United States that experiences the greatest number of tornadoes. The Southern Tier (Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties, and southern Erie County) is located on the extreme edge of Tornado Alley. Tornadoes in WNY occur most often in the summer, but tornadoes have occurred in all months between April and November. Strong tornadoes (F3 and F4) have occurred in WNY.



College campuses have been struck by tornadoes.

### Tornado Watch vs Warning

**Tornado Watch** covers a large geographic area and is issued when conditions are right for the formation of tornadoes.

**Tornado Warning** covers a smaller geographic area and is issued when a tornado is sighted by a spotter or by radar.

### Tornado Fujita Scale

F Number	Wind	Damage
f 0	45 - 78	little damage
f 1	79 - 117	minor damage
f 2	118 - 161	roof gone
f 3	162 - 209	walls collapse
f 4	210 - 261	blown down
f 5	262 - 317	blown away



### What To Do?

Be aware of weather conditions. Tornadoes are associated with thunderstorms. If a **tornado watch** has been issued listen for weather updates and be prepared to take shelter. Know where to go if a tornado were to be spotted. If a tornado has been spotted or a **warning** has been issued (*even if you don't see a tornado*) seek shelter immediately in a basement or first floor interior location. **Do not look for the tornado before seeking shelter.** Narrow hallways are good, but avoid halls that open to the outside in any direction. Avoid large open spaces such as atriums, auditoriums and gyms. And keep away from windows. If a tornado does strike crouch down, and make as small a "target" as possible. If you have something to cover your head, do so, otherwise, use your hands. Most injuries associated with high winds are from flying debris, so remember to protect your head.

On campus, the basements of the Bulger Communications Building, Cleveland Hall, and Bishop Hall are examples of good locations to seek shelter, while the Science & Math Complex (with all its glass and its open atrium), the Houston Gym and Kissinger Pool (large open spaces) are not safe locations to seek shelter (although the locker rooms would be safe).

Avoid being caught outside. If you are caught outside without shelter then lie flat in a low area and cover your head with your arms. While seeking shelter in a stationary vehicle is not recommended, a vehicle may offer a last resort shelter from flying debris. When in the vehicle put on your seat belt and cover your head with your arms.

**Be Prepared and Act Quickly:  
A tornado can appear and cause damage and injury in only a matter of seconds!**

