

Significant Tornadoes in the Chicago Metropolitan Area
Updated October 2022

Date	Time	F	Dead	Inj	County	Location/description
05/22/1855	1530	NA	4	8	Cook	Tornado tracked through portions of Maine Township, destroying a home in present-day Des Plaines.
06/03/1860	2130	NA	0	4	Kane, Cook, Lake	15 mile path from west of Elgin to Dundee to Lake Zurich. Other tornadoes struck near Glencoe and Long Grove.
05/06/1876	1710	F3	2	35	Cook	Tornado ripped apart buildings in downtown Chicago. A large multiple vortex tornado was seen moving out over Lake Michigan.
05/23/1878	1800	F4	2	8	Cook	From 6 miles east northeast of Elgin to near Barrington.
09/29/1881	1700	F2	0	0	Kendall	From south of Yorkville to near Oswego.
05/18/1883	1750	F4	4	15	Boone, McHenry	From northwest of Capron to just across the Wisconsin border. 3 people were killed in Illinois and another person was killed in Wisconsin.
05/18/1883	2245	F2	0	2	Will	Near Peotone.
06/11/1883	1730	F2	0	1	McHenry	Southeast of Harvard.
09/18/1886	1915	F2	0	20	Will	Moved northeast along the Des Plaines River hitting Joliet.
06/10/1890	2115	F2	0	0	Will	Just south of Channahon.
05/25/1896	0150	F3	0	NA	Cook	Park Ridge, Edison Park, Norwood Park, Niles.
11/11/1911	1730	F2	0	NA	DuPage	3 miles east of Aurora to northeast of Naperville.
11/11/1911	2000	F3	0	5	Lake, Porter IN	Leroy to 3 miles west of Valparaiso to south of Michigan City.
04/06/1912	NA	NA	0	18	Cook	Niles Center (now Skokie) and Wilmette.
04/21/1912	1800	F2	0	20	Kankakee, Lake IN	13 mile path from St. George through Grant Park.
05/26/1917	1645	F4	3	60	Will, Lake IN	33 mile path from Manhattan to 2 miles northeast of Crown Point.
05/26/1917	1740	F4	4	60	Lake, Porter IN	20 mile path from south of Crown Point and ended near Kouts.

03/28/1920	1205	F3	8	100	Kane, Cook, Lake	From just southeast of LaFox to the south side of Elgin to Wauconda.
03/28/1920	1215	F4	20	300	Will, Cook	53 mile path from 2 miles north of Channahon to Romeoville to the Bellwood-Maywood area to Wilmette and out over the Lake. The worst damage was Maywood through Melrose Park.
09/11/1925	0100	F2	0	1	DuPage	7 mile path beginning 4 miles southwest of Wheaton.
05/18/1926	1700	F2	0	6	Cook	Harvey.
05/05/1930	1515	F2	0	0	Cook	Maywood.
04/30/1933	1200	F2	0	3	Kane	Plato Center.
04/07/1948	1640	F3	0	1	Grundy, Will	3 miles southwest of Coal City to Braidwood.
04/07/1948	1720	F4	4	20	Kankakee, Lake, Porter, Jasper	40 mile path from 2 miles west northwest of Manteno to 5 miles south of Hebron. 3 fatalities were in Illinois, one in Indiana.
04/07/1948	1739	F2	0	11	Cook, Lake, Porter, LaPorte	30 mile path from Calumet City to 4 miles south of Michigan City.
11/13/1951	1605	F2	0	0	Lake IN	Near Gary.
05/27/1954	1830	F2	0	0	Kendall, Kane	Near Aurora. Another smaller tornado occurred near Westmont.
06/01/1954	0200	F2	0	0	Lake IN	5 miles southwest of Lowell.
08/23/1956	1440	F2	0	3	Cook	Tinley Park.
08/23/1956	1400	F2	0	0	Kane	Near Elgin.
07/12/1957	2000	F2	0	0	Lake IN	Near Cedar Lake.
08/06/1958	1710	F2	0	0	Kane	Near Aurora.
08/15/1958	0200	F2	0	0	Lee, DeKalb, Kendall, Will	A family of tornadoes moved across a 70 mile path from Dixon to Compton to Sandwich to Joliet.
10/09/1958	0026	F2	1	0	McHenry, Lake	43 mile path from west of Harvard to near Waukegan.
09/26/1959	1800	F1	0	14	Cook, Lake IL	12 mile path Palatine to Lake Forest.
09/26/1959	1745	F2	0	0	DuPage, Cook	Near O'Hare, Niles, Park Ridge.
10/8/1959	1530	F2	0	1	McHenry	McHenry.
03/04/1961	1704	F2	1	115	Cook	South side of Chicago from 91 st & Western to 68 th at Lake Michigan. \$7 million in damage.
04/23/1961	1545	F3	0	4	Will	27 mile path from Lorenzo to Beecher.

04/23/1961	1637	F2	0	0	Lake, Newton IN	Near Lowell to Shelby and Roselawn.
06/23/1962	1652	F2	0	10	Cook	Oak Forest.
07/20/1962	1500	F2	0	0	Lake, Porter IN	Griffith to Crocker.
04/19/1963	1745	F2	0	0	McHenry	Crystal Lake.
04/11/1965	1520	F4	6	75	McHenry, Lake	Crystal Lake to Wauconda. Path 11 miles long as much as 400 yards wide. \$1.5 million in damage.
04/11/1965	1550	F2	0	0	Lake IL	Druce Lake to Gurnee.
05/26/1965	0745	F2	0	11	DuPage, Cook	Addison to O'Hare.
05/26/1965	0822	F2	0	0	Cook	Near Sauk Village.
11/12/1965	1435	F2	2	90	Grundy, Will, Cook	Near Channahon to Tinley Park. 36 mile path.
11/12/1965	1653	F2	0	14	Lake IN	Munster.
04/19/1966	2227	F2	0	3	DuPage	Near Lisle.
06/09/1966	0515	F2	1	30	Cook	Arlington Hts to Prospect Hts.
04/21/1967	1550	F4	24	500	Boone, McHenry	2 miles southeast of Cherry Valley to Belvidere to near Woodstock. 28 mile path, as much as 2 mile wide. \$20 million in damage. 13 killed and 300 injured as 12 buses were tossed around at Belvidere High School at dismissal time.
04/21/1967	1710	F4	1	100	Kane, Cook, Lake	Elgin to Lake Zurich. 17 mile path. \$10 million in damage.
04/21/1967	1700	F2	0	0	Kane	LaFox.
04/21/1967	1700	F2	0	0	Kane, Cook	Northwest side of Batavia, southeast side of Geneva, to Streamwood.
04/21/1967	1724	F4	33	500	Cook	Palos Hills to Oak Lawn to south side of Chicago. 16 mile path, 200 yards wide. Over \$50 million in damage. Chicago area's most deadly tornado.
10/24/1967	1553	F2	0	0	Lake, Porter IN	Near Portage.
04/30/1970	1425	F2	0	9	Cook	Des Plaines, Park Ridge.
08/24/1971	1915	F2	0	2	DuPage	Naperville.
04/06/1972	2030	F2	1	22	Will	Shorewood and Joliet.
07/17/1972	1700	F3	0	0	Grundy, Will	Minooka to Joliet.
07/17/1972	1910	F2	0	0	DuPage	Glen Ellyn.
08/25/1972	2130	F2	0	1	Cook	Near Park Ridge.
09/28/1972	1755	F4	0	20	Lake IL	North Chicago to Waukegan. 5 mile path. \$1 million in damage.
04/21/1973	2100	F2	0	0	DuPage	Wheaton.
06/20/1974	1910	F3	0	5	Lake IN	Lowell.
06/17/1975	1154	F2	0	0	Cook	Schaumburg, Rolling Meadows.

03/12/1976	1250	F3	0	3	Kendall, DuPage	23 mile path from south of Oswego to Villa Park.
03/12/1976	1257	F3	2	66	DuPage, Cook	17 mile path Northlake to Wilmette.
03/12/1976	1400	F2	0	0	Lake, Porter	Deep River.
03/12/1976	1400	F4	0	7	Lake, Porter, LaPorte IN	25 mile path from Deep River to Michigan City. 200 yards wide.
04/20/1976	1945	F2	0	2	Lake IL	Zion.
06/13/1976	1618	F4	2	23	Cook, DuPage	Lemont to Argonne National Laboratory to Darien. 8-mile meandering path following an unusual J-shape. \$13 million in damage.
06/30/1977	1453	F2	0	1	Lake, Porter IN	Hobart to South Haven.
06/25/1978	1210	F1	1	0	Will, Kankakee	Southeast of Wilmington.
08/15/1978	1945	F2	0	0	McHenry	Huntley.
07/16/1980	0255	F2	0	0	Kane	Hampshire.
04/27/1984	1739	F3	1	5	Kendall, Will	Plainfield.
09/29/1986	1330	F1	0	10	Cook	North Riverside.
04/05/1988	2000	F2	0	0	Grundy, Will	Wilmington to New Lenox.
08/28/1990	1510	F5	29	350	Kendall, Will	Oswego to Plainfield to Joliet. 16 mile path. \$165 million in damage. Only F/EF5 to ever occur in Chicago area.
03/27/1991	1555	F3	0	7	Will, Cook	Romeoville to Lemont.
08/15/1993	1635	F2	0	0	Will	New Lenox.
04/19/1996	2232	F2	0	2	Lake IL	Zion.
05/18/1997	1818	F2	0	0	Lake IL	Lindenhurst to Gurnee.
01/07/2008	1630	EF3	0	5	Boone, McHenry	Poplar Grove to Lawrence
06/07/2008	1718	EF2	0	0	Kankakee, Will	Essex to Symerton
06/07/2008	1751	EF2	0	0	Will	Wilton Center
06/07/2008	1755	EF2	0	0	Will	Green Garden to Monee
06/07/2008	1813	EF2	0	6	Will, Cook	Monee to Park Forest
11/22/2010	1500	EF2	0	6	Winnebago, Boone, McHenry	Caledonia to Lawrence
11/17/2013	1222	EF2	0	3	Grundy, Will	Coal City to Wilmington
11/17/2013	1242	EF2	0	0	Will	Manhattan to Frankfort
06/22/2015	2145	EF3	0	0	Grundy, Will	Coal City to Braidwood
06/20/2021	2300	EF3	0	11	DuPage, Cook	Naperville to Woodridge to Darien to Willow Springs.

A significant tornado is defined as a tornado of F2/EF2 or greater intensity, or a tornado that caused any fatalities, or at least 10 injuries. The Fujita scale, or F scale, estimates wind speeds based on damage intensity. F-scale is determined by conducting ground and air surveys of the damage path. The F-scale was developed in the 1970s and was later applied to historical data based on written

accounts and photographs of the tornado damage. Therefore the F-scale ratings are subjective and may not accurately reflect the wind produced by the tornado. In 2007, the NWS adopted the Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale ([more info](#)), which included numerous additional ways of assessing damage.

The Chicago metropolitan area includes the following counties: McHenry, Lake, Kane, DuPage, Cook, Kendall, Will, and Lake (IN).

Sources: StormData, Storm Prediction Center, "Significant Tornadoes" by Tom Grazulis, other miscellaneous studies and publications.