

Fact Sheet - Tornadoes

- Maine averages one to two tornadoes per year, typically touching down in uninhabited wooded areas. In 2009 and 2010, tornadoes were verified in Aroostook and in Oxford County, Maine.
- Tornado Safety Tips: At the earliest warning, go into a below ground area with flashlights and a radio and remain there until informed that tornado danger has passed. If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture.

Three tornadoes confirmed in Maine

At the height of the storm Wednesday, 23,000 homes and businesses were in the dark in Maine. Another 20,000 customers lost electricity in Vermont. To the south, Connecticut Light & Power reported 55,000 power outages.

Gov. John Baldacci signed an emergency declaration to allow power crews from other states to come to Maine to help restore electricity and extend hours that crews may work.

Source: Bangor Daily News, July 22, 2010

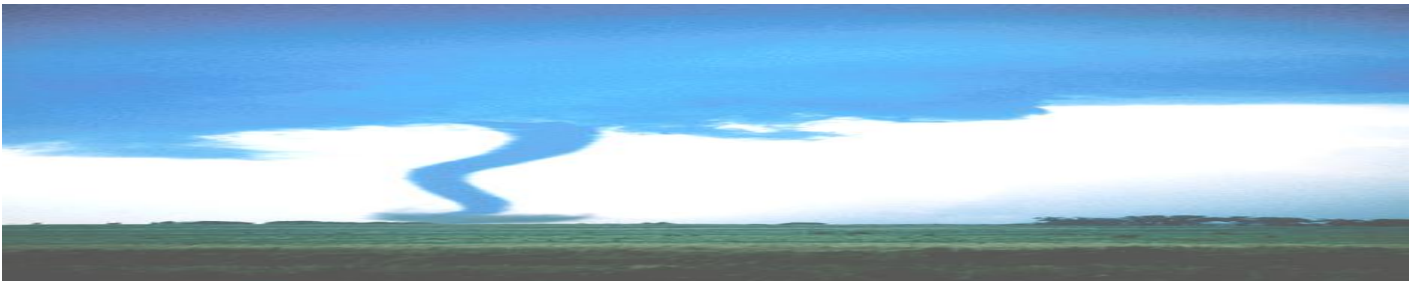
- **TORNADO WATCH:** Tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms.
- **TORNADO WARNING:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. If a tornado warning is issued for your area and the sky becomes threatening, move to your pre-designated place of safety.
- **SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH:** Severe thunderstorms are possible in your area.
- **SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING:** Severe thunderstorms are occurring.

What causes tornadoes?

Thunderstorms develop in warm, moist air in advance of eastward-moving cold fronts. These thunderstorms often produce large hail, strong winds, and tornadoes. Tornadoes in the winter and early spring are often associated with strong, frontal systems that form in the Central States and move east. Occasionally, large outbreaks of tornadoes occur with this type of weather pattern. Several states may be affected by numerous severe thunderstorms and tornadoes.

Tornadoes occasionally accompany tropical storms and hurricanes that move over land. Tornadoes are most common to the right and ahead of the path of the storm center as it comes onshore.





Tornadoes in Maine, January, 1950 to April, 2010

Location	F0	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5
Aroostook	7	14	3	0	0	0
Knox	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	1	1	0	0	0	0
Penobscot	2	6	4	0	0	0
Piscataquis	1	2	0	0	0	0
Somerset	3	3	4	0	0	0
Waldo	0	2	1	0	0	0
Totals	15	28	12	0	0	0

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Climatic Data Center

Fujita Tornado Scale

F0:	40-72 mph (35-62 kt)	F3:	158-206 mph (137-179 kt)
F1:	73-112 mph (63-97 kt)	F4:	207-260 mph (180-226 kt)
F2:	113-157 mph (98-136 kt)	F5:	261-318 mph (227-276 kt)



Photo Courtesy of: Fernald Jandreau

Eagle Lake, Maine (May, 2009)

