

DAILY DART

WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES DISASTER AWARENESS REPORT

January 30, 2023

January 2023 Tornadoes

- The National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center estimates between 140 and 165 tornadoes touched down from the start of the year through Jan. 26.
- While that number will change before it is finalized, as duplicate reports are removed and additional reports are uncovered, the high end is nearly four times the typical amount for January tornadoes.
- If January 2023 finishes with more than 137 confirmed tornado reports, it would become the second-most active on record in terms of tornadic activity. Only January 1999, which had 214 tornadoes, would rank higher.
- The first reported tornado of the year occurred at 12:47 p.m. CT near Norphlet, Arkansas, and tracked northeast for about a quarter of a mile. Following this tornado, 19 other tornadoes were reported that day, including an EF2 tornado in Jonesboro, Louisiana, that left at least three people injured.
- Although tornado reports for the month so far have been mostly confined mostly to the southeastern United States, there have been several exceptions. On Jan. 10, a brief EF1 tornado touched down near Milton, California, causing extensive tree damage. Milton is located about 50 miles southeast of Sacramento.
- Tornadoes were also spotted in Iowa and Illinois over the course of the month. The first tornado in Iowa became the earliest in a calendar year that a tornado was reported in the state on record.
- The largest outbreak of the month occurred on Jan. 12 when 70 tornadoes across seven states were reported. This date included two EF3 tornadoes that resulted in at least 9 deaths and 34 injuries across Alabama and Georgia.
- On Jan. 16, the least likely date in the year to see a tornado statically, two tornadoes were reported in Iowa.
- In the two weeks following, an additional 25 tornadoes were reported, including a strong EF3 tornado that ripped through several Houston-area suburbs on Jan. 24, bringing the total preliminary number of tornadoes so far this month to 164.
- On average, January is the third least tornadic month, with three of the past five years recording 18 or fewer tornadoes.
- From December to February, moisture from the Gulf of Mexico usually doesn't spread across the country as much as it does during the spring, summer and fall. This typically limits severe weather outbreaks during the winter months to states closer to the Gulf.
- But as long as waters in the Gulf of Mexico are warmer than normal in the winter, there will typically be a higher risk of tornado development.

RANK	REPORTS	YEAR
1.	214	1999
2.	140-165*	2023
3.	137	2017
4.	87	2020
5.	84	2008

*Preliminary tornado reports through 1/26

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Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments

State	Event	Number of Counties for IA		Start-End
		Requested	Completed	
TX	Severe Storms Jan 24	2	0	1/28-TBD

WSP USA Inspection Services Active Disasters

Disaster Number and State	Disaster Type	Number of Counties Declared	Days Since Launch	Registration Deadline
4671 PR	Hurricane Fiona	78 Municipalities	129	11/21/2022
4673 FL	Hurricane Ian	26 Counties	120	1/12/2023
4677 SC	Hurricane Ian	3 Counties	66	1/23/2023

WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES ACTIVITY

