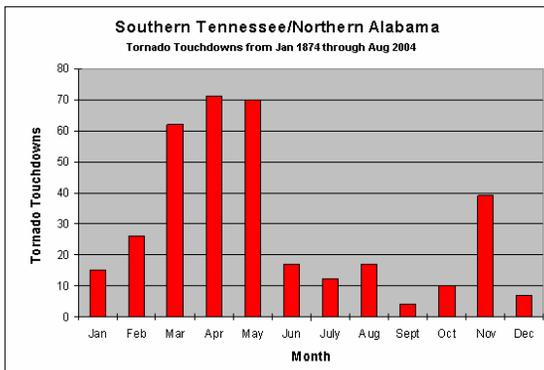


November Severe Weather

Tornadoes can occur in the Huntsville Weather Forecast Office County Warning Area during any month of the year. The clashing of warm, moist air from the Gulf and cooler, dry air from the continental United States create the conditions favorable for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes to form. The Tennessee Valley has two peak severe weather seasons – during the spring months of March, April, and May and the fall month of November. Since 1874, there have been a total of 350 tornadoes reported in the Tennessee Valley. 242 of those tornadoes formed during the two peak severe weather seasons. Sixteen percent (39) of the tornadoes reported have occurred in November. Tornadoes are dangerous regardless of which month they occur. Proper actions should always be taken to protect yourself and others during a severe weather event.



What to Do In the Event of Severe Weather

- Take appropriate action **immediately**.
- Move to an underground shelter or basement.
- If an underground shelter is not possible, go to an interior room on the lowest level of your home.
- Get out of mobile homes.
- Stay away from windows.
- Protect yourself from flying debris.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your vehicle.
- Get out of your vehicle and seek shelter.
- Avoid using a highway overpass as a shelter. They are not safe.
- Lie flat in a ditch or depression and cover your head if caught outside.
- Be watchful of the weather during any storm. Stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio for updates.



National Weather Service
Huntsville, AL Weather Forecast Office
320 Sparkman Drive
Huntsville, AL 35805
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hun/>



**FALL SEVERE WEATHER
AWARENESS DAY
OCTOBER 27, 2004**



HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

KEEPING SERVICE IN WEATHER

Watches Vs. Warnings

The National Weather Service issues a **Tornado Watch** or a **Severe Thunderstorm Watch** when conditions are favorable for the development of severe weather and/or tornadoes. A watch typically includes one state or large portions of several states. Even though hazardous weather may not yet be occurring, the time to prepare for severe weather is now.

The National Weather Service issues a **Tornado Warning** or a **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** when the NWS NEXRAD Doppler Radar indicates conditions have been met the warning criteria, or when those conditions are reported by a trained storm spotter.



This map shows the counties included in the Huntsville Weather Office's County Warning Area. The Huntsville WFO provides forecasts and warnings for Northern Alabama and Southern Middle Tennessee.



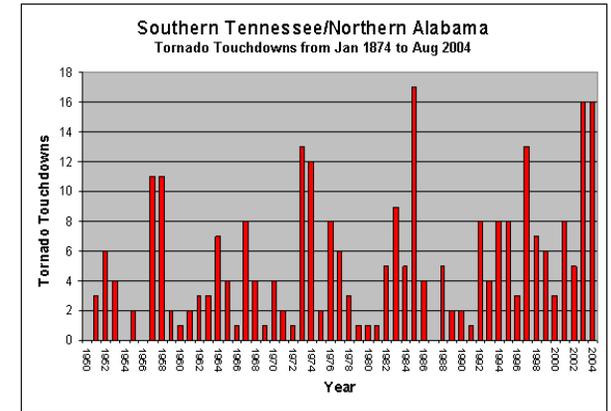
Severe Weather Facts

There have been 16 F4 (207+ mph) tornadoes in the Huntsville WFO County Warning Area.

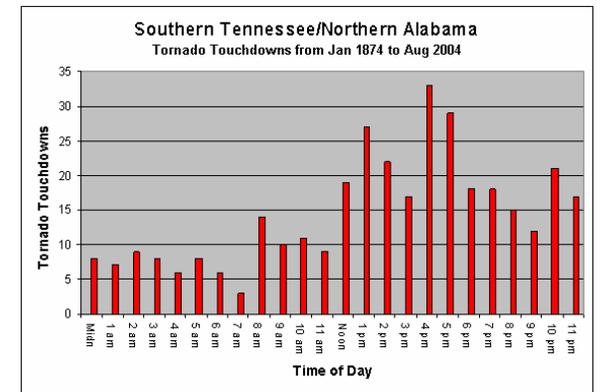
All the F4 tornadoes have occurred during March, April, May or November – the months associated with the Tennessee Valley's two severe weather seasons.

The 5th deadliest tornado in the Huntsville County Warning Area hit parts of downtown Huntsville, Alabama on November 15, 1989. This F4 tornado killed 21 people and injured 463 others.

With a total of seven, November is the 3rd highest month for number of F3 or stronger tornadoes.



So far this year, there have been the same number of tornadoes across the Tennessee Valley as in all of 2003. Last year was the second highest year on record for the number of tornadoes in our area.



Most tornado touchdowns across the Tennessee Valley occur in the afternoon and early evening hours – when more children are outside and during the evening rush hour.