# Wacky Weather Wisconsin

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### Tornadoes



**Barneveld 1984 F-5** One of the costliest tornadoes, adjusted for inflation, to hit Wisconsin. Tracking over 36 miles in the early morning of Jun. 8th, the tornado was the second strongest of many to hit the midwest in a 24-hour outbreak. There were 9 fatalities and 20 injuries.

**Stoughton 2005 EF-3** On Aug. 18th, an intense muliple vortex tornado devasted the town of Soughton. The 20 mile path destroyed businesses, homes, and fields. Debris lofted by the updraft was carried as far east as Milwaukee County. There was 1 fatality and 23 injuries.

Oakfield 1996 F-5

One of the strongest tornadoes to hit Wisconsin

on record. The town of

Oakfield was leveled in

the evening hours of Jul. 18th. Houses were swept from their foundations

and cars thrown hundreds

of feet. Miraculously only 17 people were injured and none killed.

#### Hurricane Force Winds



Squall Line 2011 In the early morning of Jul. 20th, a severe squall line tracked across southern Wisconsin. The racing line of severe thunderstorms downed numerous trees and power lines. A peak gust of 82 mph was measured near the City of Monona. **Squall Line 2006** A squall line produced damaging straight-line winds that uprooted or damaged thousands of trees, structures, and vehicles across southeast Wisconsin on Jun. 21st. Local gusts of 100 mph were measured in western Waukesha County.

## ted es, ed. Higher Frequency per Area

Rank 72 40 1 Tornadoes High Winds

## Which Counties Experience the Most Severe Weather?

The four axes indicate a type of severe weather prominent in Wisconsin. The length of each axis is scaled based on the county's rank of each type of severe weather frequency per area. A longer axis or larger shape means the county experiences more severe weather per area. For example, southern counties experience more tornadoes (red axis) per area than the northern counties. The Frequency of Severe Weather from 1982-2012

### Winter Storms



Halloween Blizzard 1991 Winter came early for parts of western Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota from Oct. 31st to Nov. 2nd. A strong low pressure system tracked from the Gulf of Mexico northward. The three day snowfall totals ranged from 15 to 30 inches. LaCrosse accumulated 9.2 inches of snow on Halloween. Northern Blizzard 2001 A low pressure system from Colorado brought 12-20 inches of snow to northwest Wisconsin on Nov. 26-27. The heaviest snow fell from Siren to Ashland. The largest snowfall totals were in southeast Bayfield County.

**Southern Blizzard 2008** The southern half of the state experienced 10-21 inches of snow along with 50 mph winds on Feb. 5-6. A stretch of Interstate 90 in Dane County was the site of a 1,000 vehicle backup lasting 20 hours due to jackknifing tractor trailers blocking the road.

## Flooding



Flash Flooding 2010 Over 7.5 inches of rain fell in 2 hours in Milwaukee and the surrounding counties in the late afternoon hours of Jul. 22nd. The heavy rains damaged equipment at several television stations hampering media coverage. A large sinkhole on Milwaukee's East Side swallowed a SUV. There was 1 fatality and \$37 million of damage.

**Mississippi Flooding 2007** From Aug. 18-23, torrential rains fell in southern Wisconsin. The five day totals ranged from 6-17 inches with the largest totals in southwestern Wisconsin. A portion of the Missisppi Rivier from LaCrosse to Prarie du Chien overran its banks. To put the rainfall in perspective, normal August rainfall in Wisconsin is 4 inches.

Flash Flooding 1993 In the overnight hours of Jul. 17th, 12 inches of rain fell in Sauk County triggering a flash flood. The Baraboo River overran its banks resulting in \$7.8 million in property damage. A young boy drowned when the car he was riding in was swept away by the flood waters.