

TORNADO FACT FILE

Destructive and fast spinning funnel-shaped wind that stretches from a thunderstorm to the ground.

Tornadoes are also called twisters. They are distinguished from tropical storms such as cyclones, typhoons and hurricanes due to their twisting nature.

The majority of the world's tornadoes occur in the United States of America, during spring time.



CAUSES

Scientists aren't exactly sure how or why tornadoes form, but do know that they come from supercell storms that have strong updrafts (rising warm air).



DURATION

Tornadoes can last for a few seconds up to an hour.

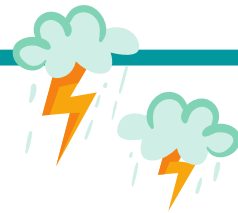
Tornadoes can be so powerful that they can uproot trees, lift cars and tear roofs off houses.



A tornado over water is called a waterspout.

SIZE

The diameter of a tornado can be as small as a few meters to over a kilometer wide.



SPEED

Tornadoes can reach speeds of up to 480kms per hour!

The speed of the tornado determines its classification using the 6-point Fujita scale, where F0 is the weakest, and F5 the strongest wind speeds.