

# Arkansas Weather Statistics for 2009

## Tornadoes

**(45 tornadoes, 3 fatalities, 46 injuries)**

1. 5.3 miles southeast of Page, OK, to 2.5 miles north-northeast of Mountain Fork, AR (Le Flore Co., OK and Polk Co., AR), April 9, 7:26 PM – In Oklahoma, this tornado was rated EF2 with a path length of 6.5 miles, and there were 4 injuries. In Arkansas, this tornado was rated as EF1 with a path length of 4.2 miles, and there were no injuries.
2. 5.3 miles east-southeast of Eagletown, OK, to 1.9 miles south of New Hope, AR (McCurtain Co., OK, and Sevier, Howard, and Pike Cos., AR), April 9, 8:01 PM – An EF3 tornado had a path length of 0.26 mile in Oklahoma and 36.92 miles in Arkansas. There were 7 injuries in Arkansas.
3. 0.4 mile south-southwest of Potter to 3.4 miles north-northeast of Ink (Polk Co.), April 9, 8:02 PM – An EF3 tornado had a path length of 14.84 miles. Three people were killed and 30 people were injured. Two fatalities occurred in houses and the other was at a Masonic Lodge.
4. 2.1 miles southwest of Center Point to 1.4 miles north-northwest of Center Point (Howard Co.), April 9, 8:34 PM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 2.73 miles. There was one injury. This tornado rotated clockwise, whereas more than 99% of the tornadoes in the Northern Hemisphere rotate counterclockwise.
5. 2.1 miles south-southwest of Ravanna to 2.4 miles east-northeast of Doddridge (Miller Co.), April 9, 8:51 PM – An EF3 tornado had a path length of 9.89 miles.
6. 2.2 miles southeast of New Hope to 4.1 miles west of Daisy (Pike Co.), April 9, 8:53 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.97 miles.
7. 0.5 mile south of White to 3 miles south of Berlin (Ashley Co.), April 9, 11:27 PM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 13.6 miles.
8. 1.3 miles northeast of Clarksville to 2.7 miles south-southeast of Hillcrest (Johnson Co.), April 27, 6:11 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 3.1 miles.

9. 4.3 miles south-southeast of Japton to 3.5 miles east-southeast of Japton (Madison Co.), April 29, 5:01 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 3 miles.
10. 0.4 mile west of Sutherland to 0.8 mile north-northeast of Sutherland (Franklin Co.), April 29, 5:07 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 1 mile.
11. 1.5 miles east-southeast of Elmo to 0.8 miles south-southeast of Macks (Independence and Jackson Cos.), April 30, 4:13 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.55 mile.
12. 0.9 mile north-northwest of Pleasant Hill to 1 mile northwest of Ferguson (Miller Co.), May 2, 6:13 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 3.53 miles. Three people were injured.
13. 1.6 miles north-northwest of Walnut to 1.6 miles north of Walnut (Newton Co.), May 1, 8:27 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 0.66 mile.
14. 0.6 mile west-southwest of Simpson to 0.3 mile southwest of Simpson (Pope Co.), May 1, 9:11 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 0.3 mile.
15. 1.3 miles northwest of Immanuel to 2.9 miles west-northwest of Crocketts Bluff (Arkansas Co.), May 6, 1:19 AM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 4.39 miles.
16. 1.3 miles west-northwest of Marvell to 1.3 miles northwest of Marvell (Phillips Co.), May 6, 2:03 AM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 0.08 mile.
17. 0.6 mile north of Rose Hill to 2 miles east of Rose Hill (Drew Co.), May 6, 4:52 AM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.11 miles.
18. 1.7 miles south-southwest of Peytonville to 1.7 miles southeast of Peytonville (Little River Co.), May 9, 2:10 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 2.34 miles.
19. 2.7 miles south-southwest of Crossroads to 1.4 miles north-northeast of Guernsey (Hempstead Co.), May 9, 2:30 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 5.54 miles.
20. 3.7 miles north-northwest of Ogden to 1.4 miles north-northwest of Ogden (Little River Co.), May 14, 4:20 AM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 2.36 miles.
21. 0.6 mile east of Possum Trot to 0.2 mile north-northwest of Solgohachia (Conway Co.), June 12, 2:10 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.44 miles.

22. 0.4 mile southwest of Bingen to 0.7 mile north-northeast of Doyle (Hempstead Co.), July 21, 1:42 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 1.28 miles.
23. 4.5 miles north-northeast of Mayflower to 1.5 miles north-northwest of Lake Conway (Faulkner Co.), July 21, 4:12 PM – An EF0 tornado (waterspout) over Lake Conway had a path length of 0.94 mile.
24. 3.5 miles east-northeast of Vilonia to 4.3 miles east-northeast of Vilonia (Faulkner Co.), July 21, 4:34 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 1.18 miles.
25. 1.2 miles northwest of Sulphur Springs to 0.9 mile east-northeast of Sulphur Springs (Jefferson Co.), July 21, 8:20 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 1.64 miles.
26. 2 miles east of Mount Olive to 0.3 mile south-southwest of Jacinto (Dallas Co.), July 30, 2:42 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.3 miles.
27. 4.4 miles northeast of Arkansas Post to 2.5 miles south-southeast of Modoc (Arkansas and Phillips Cos. in Arkansas, into Coahoma Co., Mississippi, back into Phillips Co., then back into Coahoma Co., and finally back into Phillips Co.), July 30, 3:23 PM – An EF2 tornado had a total path length of 33.37 miles, which included 26.94 miles in Arkansas and 6.43 miles in Mississippi. This is the greatest path length that has ever occurred with a July tornado in Arkansas. The back-and-forth path from Arkansas to Mississippi is due to the path of the tornado in an area where the Mississippi River, and thus the boundary between the states, snakes back and forth considerably.
28. 2.4 miles northwest of Hydrick to 0.5 mile south-southeast of Bethel (Poinsett Co.), July 30, 3:48 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 4.53 miles.
29. 0.1 mile north of Cummins to 1.9 miles east-northeast of Cummins (Lincoln Co.), July 30, 4:11 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 1.91 miles.
30. 1.2 miles south-southeast of Pleasant Grove to 1 mile south of Hillsboro (Union Co.), October 29, 1:55 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 3.39 miles.
31. 1.4 miles north-northwest of Lisbon to 2.05 miles southeast of Shumaker (Union, Ouachita, Calhoun, Ouachita, Calhoun and Ouachita Cos.), October 29, 3:07 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 25.52 miles. This tornado moved across the campus of Southern Arkansas University Tech.

32. 3.3 miles west-southwest of Smackover to 1.8 miles west-southwest of Smackover (Union Co.), October 29, 3:13 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.5 miles.
33. 2.04 miles north-northeast of East Camden to 3.91 miles north-northeast of Bearden (Calhoun and Ouachita Cos.), October 29, 3:45 PM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 10.83 miles. This tornado moved through the Arkansas Fire Training Academy.
34. 2.58 miles west-southwest of Forrest Bonner to 2.92 miles east of Eaglette (Dallas Co.), October 29, 4:00 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 5.07 miles. This tornado affected the Ramsey community.
35. 1.86 miles east-northeast of Junet to 3.13 miles south of Amber (Grant Co.), October 29, 5:04 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.57 miles.
36. 2.74 miles north of Cardiff to 2.33 miles east of Joyland (Scott and Logan Cos.), October 29, 5:26 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 8.12 miles.
37. 1.6 miles northwest of Magnolia Airport to 0.6 mile west-southwest of Magnolia (Columbia Co.), October 29, 5:34 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.42 miles.
38. 1.7 miles northeast of Agricultural School to 1.8 miles southwest of Magnesia Springs (Columbia Co.), October 29, 5:39 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 1.46 miles. One person was injured.
39. 0.59 mile west of Hamiter to 2.1 miles northeast of Scott (Lonoke Co.), October 29, 5:59 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 3.02 miles.
40. 2.93 miles east-northeast of Lester to 2.24 miles south of Wave (Ouachita and Dallas Cos.), October 29, 6:27 PM – An EF2 tornado had a path length of 25.86 miles.
41. 2.3 miles east of Agricultural School to 2.5 miles southeast of Milner (Columbia Co.), October 29, 6:33 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 7.56 miles.
42. 2.9 miles south of Emerson to 0.8 mile east-northeast of Emerson (Columbia Co.), October 29, 8:10 PM – An EF0 tornado had a path length of 3.09 miles.
43. 1.77 miles west-northwest of Turin to 1.98 miles northwest of Turin (Grant Co.), October 29, 7:45 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 0.57 mile.

44. 2.56 miles south of Brewster to 1.98 miles east-southeast of Brewster (Jefferson Co.), October 29, 10:52 PM – An EF1 tornado had a path length of 2.57 miles. Four people were injured. This tornado affected the southeast side of Pine Bluff.

45. 4.7 miles northeast of Huffins, TX, to 1.1 miles west of Enon, AR (Cass Co., TX, and Miller Co., AR), December 23, 10:10 PM – An EF1 tornado had a total path length of 4.79 miles, which included 2.13 miles in Texas and 2.66 miles in Arkansas.

## **Thunderstorm (Straight-Line) Winds (13 injuries)**

103 mph...

Corning Airport (Clay Co.), April 9.

92 mph...

2.3 miles west of McGehee to 2.5 miles north-northwest of McGehee (Desha Co.),  
October 30.

90 mph...

3.2 miles west-northwest of Atkins to 3.2 miles east-northeast of Atkins (Pope Co.), June  
12.

1.5 miles east-southeast of Fairfield (Jefferson Co.), October 29.

85 mph...

Letona (White Co.), February 11. Three people were injured.

Rogers (Benton Co.), June 12.

3 miles west-northwest of Mountain Springs to 2.2 miles northeast of Mountain Springs  
(Lonoke Co.), June 12.

80 mph...

2 miles east-northeast of Birdtown to 2 miles southeast of Catholic Point (Conway Co.),  
February 11.

1 mile north of Formosa (Van Buren Co.), February 11.

0.9 mile southeast of Rock Springs to 2.5 miles south-southwest of Deane (Drew Co.),  
May 6. Three people were injured.

1 mile west of Gentry (Benton Co.), June 12.

5 miles west of Ozark (Franklin Co.), June 12.

4 miles south of Fort Smith (Sebastian Co.), June 12.

3.1 miles west-southwest of Old Hickory to 1 mile south-southwest of Cypress Valley (Conway Co.), June 12.

0.7 mile north-northwest of Skunk Hollow to 3.1 miles east of Funston (Faulkner Co.), June 12.

0.8 mile northwest of Beedeville (Jackson Co.), June 12.

Greenwood (Sebastian Co.), June 14.

Oak Grove (Carroll Co.), July 16.

3 miles south of Bingen (Hempstead Co.), July 20.

1.4 miles north-northeast of Jacksons Store to 0.5 mile southeast of Woodlawn (Lonoke Co.), August 5.

77 mph...

1.5 miles north-northwest of Dermott to 0.6 mile southeast of Dermott (Chicot Co.), October 9.

76 mph...

1.3 miles east-southeast of DeQueen (Sevier Co.), July 20.

75 mph...

1.2 miles west-northwest of Choctaw to 1.2 miles north-northeast of Green Tree (Van Buren Co.), February 11.

4 miles northwest of Mountain Home to Mountain Home (Baxter Co.), May 8.

Guy to 3 miles south of Guy (Faulkner Co.), June 12.

4.6 miles west-northwest of Ward to 1.5 miles west-northwest of Ward (Lonoke Co.), June 12. One person was injured.

Oil Trough (Independence Co.), June 12.

2.7 miles south-southeast of Ida to 2.8 miles south-southeast of Hiram (Cleburne Co.), August 5.

Dalark (Dallas Co.), October 9.

0.8 mile north of Hampton to 0.7 mile west of Harrell (Calhoun Co.), October 9.

A mobile home was overturned by thunderstorm winds 2.6 miles west-southwest of Mount Tabor (Drew Co.) on April 9. One person was injured.

A tree fell on a house at Strong (Union Co.) on June 11. One person was injured.

A man was injured by a falling tree 1.3 miles south of Sylvania (Lonoke Co.), June 12.

One person was injured in Vanndale (Cross Co.), June 12.

A man was injured when a tree fell on a car 0.6 mile east of Bradley (Lafayette Co.), October 9.

A man was injured by flying debris in Warren (Bradley Co.), October 9.

## **Hail**

4.00 inches (softball size)...

Hackett (Sebastian Co.), June 12.

3.00 inches (large apple size)...

2 miles southwest of Mena (Polk Co.), April 9.

1 mile southeast of Monte Ne (Benton Co.), May 1.

3 miles west-northwest of Fayetteville (Washington Co.), August 5.

2.75 inches (baseball size)...

5 miles northeast of Aurora (Madison Co.), May 1.

Sherwood (Pulaski Co.), June 30.

2.9 miles east-southeast of Fairview (Lonoke Co.), June 30.

0.7 mile west of James Mill to 0.7 mile west-northwest of Marion (Crittenden Co.), July 26.

2.50 inches (tennis ball size)...

Shaw (Saline Co.), April 9.

2 miles north of Aurora (Madison Co.), May 1

2 miles east-southeast of Savoy (Washington Co.), June 14.

2.00 inches (lime size)...

Glen Rose (Hot Spring Co.), April 9.

3.9 miles south-southwest of Empire to 2.7 miles (Chicot Co.), April 9.

3.6 miles southeast of Fairview (Lonoke Co.), June 30.

## **Lightning (5 injuries)**

4 miles northwest of Booneville (Logan Co.), March 26 – One person was injured by lightning while working on a drilling rig.

2.1 miles northwest of Gassville (Baxter Co.), July 13 – A teen-aged male was injured by lightning while adjusting a tall, outdoor television antenna.

1.4 miles west of Lonsdale (Garland Co.), July 16 – An electric utility employee was injured by lightning while standing near a truck.

Judsonia (White Co.), July 29 – A woman was injured by lightning while selling melons beneath a canopy at a roadside stand. She was holding onto a metal pole holding up the canopy when lightning struck.

Bentonville (Benton Co.), August 10 – Lightning struck a vehicle, injuring the person inside it.

## **Flash Floods** **(4 fatalities, 7 injuries)**

Jonesboro (Craighead Co.), May 24 – A flash flood fatality occurred when a teen-aged boy was swept away while playing in a water-filled ditch.

3 miles northwest of Brookland (Craighead Co.), May 24 – Two people were killed when their vehicle was swept off a small bridge.

4.6 miles northwest of Tatumville (Saline Co.), July 20 – Two adults and three children were in an SUV that stalled in flood waters. The people exited the vehicle but were swept through a culvert beneath the road. Two people who came to their aid were also swept through the culvert. All of the people were injured.

1 mile north-northwest of New Hope (Independence Co.), October 30 – One person was killed when a vehicle was washed off a county road where the road crossed an unnamed, seasonal creek.

## **Other Floods** **(3 fatalities, 5 injuries)**

4.3 miles east of Warren (Bradley Co.), May 10 – An indirect flood fatality occurred when a car left U.S. Highway 278, went airborne, and landed in flood waters from Flat Branch Creek and

the Saline River. A passenger in the car drowned. This is an indirect fatality since the car accident was the initial event.

Lake Erling (Lafayette Co.), October 27 – A 30 year-old woman was killed when she apparently attempted to ride a futon mattress on flood waters over the spillway. There was about 2.5 feet of water going over the spillway at the time.

1 mile north of Burdette (Mississippi Co.), October 29 – A man was killed when his car ran off U.S. Highway 61 and went into a flooded ditch. This is an indirect fatality since the car accident was the initial event.

3 miles northeast of South Bend (Lonoke Co.), December 24 – A man had to be treated for hypothermia after he was rescued from his flooded vehicle.

4 miles east of Arkadelphia (Clark Co.), December 24 – Two people had to be treated for hypothermia after being rescued from their flooded vehicle.

6 miles north of Carlisle (Lonoke Co.), December 24 – An elderly woman was rescued after her car was swept off a county road by flood waters from Wattensaw Bayou. Her husband had to be rescued as well after he went looking for his wife and had his vehicle swept off Arkansas Highway 13 by water from the same bayou. Both people were treated for hypothermia.

#### **Notes:**

**Severe weather events shown above in black have been certified for publication in *Storm Data*, which is published by the National Climatic Data Center. However, these entries are still subject to change if additional information is received or errors are found. Entries appearing in blue have not yet been certified for publication. Typically, certifications occur about two months after the end of a given month. For example, severe weather events that occurred in August will be certified for publication at the end of October.**

**Severe weather events will be added as soon as possible after they occur. However, because it often takes several days to survey tornado tracks after a large severe weather outbreak, it may be a week or more before tornadoes can be added to the listing.**

**Tornadoes shown above will sometimes be referenced as being a certain number of miles from a different town than was indicated in the preliminary report sent to the news media. When a storm survey team goes out, a laptop computer and a GPS device are used to mark the latitude and longitude of the beginning and ending points of a tornado, as well as some**

**intermediate points along the track. At the conclusion of the survey, the points on the laptop are used to compute where the beginning and ending points of the tornado are in relation to nearby towns. For easy reference, the only towns used are those that appear on the official map published by the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department. This information is then sent to the news media, so that they can disseminate the information quickly. A few days or weeks afterwards, the latitude and longitude points are entered into the official Storm Data software that is used by the National Weather Service. This software then computes beginning and ending points in relation to towns that are listed in the Storm Data database. Some of the communities in the database are quite small, and it may be necessary to reference commercial map plotting software such as Mapquest or Google Earth to see the location of these communities. The points that the software computes for tornadoes are those shown in the listing above, and these are the points that will appear when *Storm Data* is published by the National Climatic Data Center.**