

Can tornadoes occur in South Carolina? · · I thought that was a Midwest thing!

COLD

In the spring, warm air from the south meets cold air from the north.

> Warm air rises and cold air drops, causing these opposite winds to tumble.

Warm air pushes the rolling winds upward towards heavy clouds.

If you're outside and you see the clouds get dark or turn green, get inside quickly!

You might also hear a sound <mark>similar to a train but it gets louder</mark>



Tornadoes are violent

columns of rotating air.

to the thunderstorm.



Cold air falls from the cloud with rain, but gets sucked back into the cloud as it warms up on the ground.

The Fujita Scale measures

the wind speed of tornadoes.

All tornadoes are dangerous.

Always seek shelter.

Fujita Scale

40-72 mph winds

F1 73-112 mph winds

F2 113-157 mph winds

F3 158-206 mph winds

F4 207-260 mph winds

Visit to figure out your tornado plan O

F5 261-318 mph winds

As soon as you hear the warning siren or see it on TV, get to a basement, interior room, or a closet.

South Carolina averages 11 tornadoes per year since 1950.

- 18th in US for # per sq. mile - 26th in US for # of tornadoes

The quick cycle of cold and warm air circulating from ground to cloud causes a rotating deadly storm.

> **Tornadoes** are complex. Scientists do not fully understand them and they are extremely dangerous to study. Tornadoes can drive a drinking straw through a tree trunk or leave papers untouched on a table in a destroyed house. No one knows how.

Watch the sky for dark clouds. Turn

on the TV, radio, or check your phone

for weather updates:

Thunderstorm Warning: Severe storms with

tornadoes. Stay indoors and watch the news.

Tornado Watch: The conditions are right for

a tornado to form. Keep an eye on the news.

Tornado Warning: The weather service has

spotted a tornado in your area. Take cover!!!

lightning and hail can quickly turn into

Tornado Alley: Tornadoes occur all over the world, but the United States has more than any other country. The majority of U.S. tornadoes occur in "tornado alley," the central region of the country where three air masses meet and the jet stream carries the storms eastward.

Tornado Alley shifts year-to-year based on the current weather patterns and shifting jet stream.

TORNADO VS. HURRICANE

Form over land Less than 15 minutes warning

> Less than 1/4 mile wide Lasts only a few minutes to an hour

> > Speeds up to 300 mph

Center of the storm is very violent

Forms over water

Days, sometimes weeks warning

Can be hundreds of miles wide

Can last for days

Speeds up to 180 mph

Center of the storm, called the eye, is calm.