

Winter Severe Weather in Northern Illinois and Northwest Indiana (NWS Chicago County Warning Area Counties)

By Richard Castro and Matthew Friedlein

Tornadoes in the Winter Months (December-February)

- January 25, 1950: F2 tornado at Momence, Kankakee County
- December 6, 1951: F2 tornado from Spring Valley, Bureau County to 7 miles northeast of Mendota, LaSalle County (25 mile path 1 killed, 1 injured)
- December 6, 1951: F1 tornado from 1 mile north of Arlington Heights to .5 mile east of Buffalo Grove, Cook County (3 mile path)
- December 3, 1955: F2 tornado from near Dana, LaSalle County to 5 miles south of Mazon, Grundy County (25 mile path, also crossed Livingston County)
- December 8, 1966: F2 tornado 8 miles north of Rensselaer, Jasper County, IN (1 injured)
- December 4, 1973: F1 tornado near Ashkum, Iroquois County
- February 16, 2006: F1 near Pittwood, Iroquois County
- January 7, 2008: EF3 Poplar Grove to Lawrence
- February 28, 2017: Ten total tornadoes in northern and central Illinois, including seven in the NWS Chicago CWA. Of these seven, the strongest were EF-3 in Naplate into Ottawa, LaSalle County, end of EF-3 into LaSalle County, and an EF-2 in LaSalle to Livingston County).

Recent Severe Winds and/or Hail in the Winter Months

- 2/16/06: 1" hail in Porter County
- 12/23/07: Significant wind damage from central IL to the Chicago metro. Measured wind gusts on land up to 70 mph and 88 mph wind gust at Harrison-Dever Crib.
- 1/7/08: In addition to the Boone-McHenry tornado, damaging winds with estimated to measured gusts of 60-80 mph in parts of northern IL. Hail to $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter.
- 12/27/08: Wind damage and wind gusts up to 65 mph in parts of north central to east central IL

- 1/29/13: 1" diameter hail in south Chicago suburbs into parts of NW Indiana
- 12/23/15: Wind damage with a power pole down on U.S. Highway 24 one half mile east of Fairbury
- 2/28/17: Ten tornadoes and severe hail up to baseball size across northern and central Illinois

Recent Severe Weather Watches in the Winter Months

- February 16, 2006: Tornado Watch included Ford, Iroquois, Kankakee, Livingston counties in IL. Benton, Jasper, Lake, Newton and Porter counties IN.
- January 7, 2008: Tornado Watch included all the NWS Chicago CWA counties except Benton County.
- December 27, 2008: Tornado Watch included Cook, De Kalb, DuPage, Ford, Grundy, Iroquois, Kane, Kankakee, La Salle, Livingston and Will counties in IL. Benton, Jasper, Lake, Newton and Porter counties in IN.
- December 31, 2010: Tornado Watch included Ford, Iroquois, Kankakee and Livingston counties in IL and Benton, Jasper and Newton counties in IN.
- February 28, 2017: Tornado watch including much of northern and central IL.

Recent Severe Weather Warnings in the Winter Months

- 2/16/06: Tornado Warning (TOR) Kankakee IL, TOR Will and Lake IN
- 12/23/07: Severe T-Storm Warning (SVR) Livingston and Ford IL
- 1/7/08: SVR for Boone and Winnebago IL, TOR for Winnebago and Boone IL; TOR for McHenry and Boone IL; SVR for McHenry; SVR for La Salle; SVR for Will, Cook, Lake IN; SVR for Grundy, Ford, Livingston, Kankakee, La Salle, Will; SVR for Lake IN, Jasper, Kankakee, Iroquois, Porter, Newton, Will; SVR for Jasper, Newton, Benton, Porter, Iroquois, Ford
- 2/4/08: SVR for La Salle, IL
- 12/27/08: SVR for Kankakee, Livingston, Ford, Grundy, Will; SVR for Livingston, De Kalb, Lee, La Salle; SVR for Ford, Iroquois, Livingston; SVR for Grundy, Livingston, Ford, Will, Iroquois, Kankakee, La Salle, Cook, Kendall; SVR for Iroquois, Kankakee, Jasper, Newton, Benton
- 12/31/10: TOR for Livingston
- 12/3/12: TOR for Ogle IL
- 1/29/13: SVR for Cook, Will, Lake IN; SVR for Porter

- 12/23/15: SVR & TOR for Ford, Iroquois, & Livingston Counties
- 2/28/17: TORs including LaSalle, Kendall, Grundy, and Livingston Counties

For more specific event information:

- [NWS Chicago Storm Data](#)
- [NWS Chicago Science and Past Events Page](#)
- [IEM Cow \(NWS Storm Based Warning Verification\)](#)
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