

RECORDED TORNADOES AND WATERSPOUTS IN NORFOLK

Date	Time	Magnitude	Length	Deaths/Injuries	Damage
4/8/1957	5:20 pm	F1	1 mi	0/2	\$250,000
Details: A brief tornado passed between Naval Station Norfolk and Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk, southwest of Ocean View, wrecking signage, damaging an unfinished warehouse, shattering windows, unroofing structures, and splintering utility poles. Two people were injured. Part of a larger tornado outbreak across the Carolinas and Virginia.					
4/8/1962*	10:50 am	F1	11.5 mi	1/0	\$250,000
Details: A skipping tornado weaved its way across approximately nine square miles of what is now present-day Chesapeake, formerly southeastern Norfolk County. Its movement was generally northeastward through St. Brides, Hickory, and Fentress communities. Roofs were torn from numerous buildings, and many buildings and structures were damaged to extents ranging from partial to complete destruction. One entire roof of a home destroyed an automobile on which it landed. Flying debris and fallen trees contributed to lesser damage. Notable extreme wind effects included chickens stripped of their feathers, roof slates embedded deep into trees, masonry blocks hurled 375 feet through the air, a moving car lifted and dropped off the road, and a farm wagon tossed 30 feet against a barn.					
4/11/1962	9:45 am	F0	1 mi	0/1	\$2,500
Details: A small tornado touched down briefly in a residential area in the northern portion of the city. Damages were light and confined to the roofs of several homes and glass windows, which were blown out. One person was injured by flying broken glass. In a display of wind force, several automobiles were lifted momentarily from the ground. The funnel cloud was observed to taper to a thin pencil line at the surface.					
4/30/1968	5:15-5:30 pm	F1	22.5 mi (total)	0/0	\$250,000
Details: A prefrontal squall line with strong winds, rain, and possibly a tornado caused extensive damage to buildings, trees, utilities, and house trailers. A large section of the roof was ripped off Bayside High School, windows were broken in numerous locations, and damage at Norfolk Naval Base was extensive. The Norfolk Weather Bureau recorded wind gusts reaching 60 knots (69 mph) as the storm traveled from northwest to southeast. Only two or three people reported seeing the funnel cloud.					

8/10/1968	5:50 pm	F1	0.1 mi	0/0	\$0
Details: A tornado sighted by two observers dropped down into a field, snapped a tree estimated to be three feet in diameter, tore loose a transformer and power lines, and then proceeded eastward across the Virginia Beach city line.					
6/6/1977	3:20 pm	F1	0.3 mi	0/0	\$25,000+
Details: Extensive damage from a tornado and straight-line winds was observed. The tornado apparently moved from west-northwest to east-southeast and touched down two or three times. At least two funnel clouds were observed. This tornado was part of a larger severe weather event with extensive straight-line wind damage. Determining the exact path was "impossible to distinguish with any degree of accuracy," according to the NWS. The combined force of the storm's straight-line winds and tornado caused widespread destruction, inflicting an estimated \$300,000 in damage at Norfolk Naval Base and nearly \$1 million in total damage across the Norfolk area.					
4/4/1980	4:05 pm	F1	0.2 mi	0/1	\$250,000
Details: The funnel reportedly touched down near a trailer park, lifting two house trailers—situated between two others—20 feet into the air before destroying them. A man inside one of the trailers saw the tornado approaching and flattened himself to the floor. Miraculously, he emerged from the wreckage without serious injuries. The tornado's base was estimated to be between 50 and 75 feet in diameter, and witnesses described its roar as resembling a locomotive or the inside of a wind tunnel. Debris from the destroyed trailers caused additional damage to a nearby trailer home and a parked car. According to NCEI publications, damage was estimated at around \$60,000.					
7/24/1997	12:16 pm	F1	2 mi	0/0	\$400,000
Details: Occurred because of Tropical Storm Danny. The tornado path started in south Norfolk just south of Poindexter Street on Guerriere Street. The tornado then continued north-northeast into the Berkley Avenue Industrial Park before crossing into the southern portion of Norfolk and lifting after causing damage on Roseclair and Joyce Streets. One business, a car wash, was destroyed, and six other businesses sustained major roof damage. One home was damaged in Chesapeake, with damage to a couple of additional structures in the Roseclair and Joyce Street areas of Norfolk.					
7/24/1997	12:20 pm	F0	1 mi	0/0	\$100,000
Details: Occurred because of Tropical Storm Danny. A tornado first touched down west of Route 460 between Liberty Street and Indian River Road. The tornado tracked north-northeast across Indian River Road and the eastern branch of the Elizabeth River before lifting east of Harbor Park and south of I-264. Minor damage to several structures, mostly residential.					

7/30/1997	12:00 pm	N/A		0/0	\$0
Details: Several waterspouts were reported just north of Norfolk over the southern Chesapeake Bay.					
4/8/2000	5:25 pm	N/A		0/0	\$0
Details: Norfolk Emergency Manager reported a waterspout north of Ocean View.					
8/20/2000	10:22 am	N/A		0/0	\$0
Details: A Waterspout formed in Hampton Roads harbor between Norfolk and Newport News. Many other reports of waterspouts in the region from 8 am to 2 pm.					
10/9/2000	6:15 am	N/A		0/0	\$0
Details: A waterspout formed off Ocean View Beach, then quickly dissipated.					
9/18/2003	5:00 pm	F0	0.3 mi	0/0	\$0
Details: A brief tornado occurred during Hurricane Isabel. No damage was reported.					
4/28/2008	3:35-3:40 pm	EF-1	24 mi (total)	0/0	\$100,000
Details: The tornado began in Suffolk as an EF-3 and then tracked through Portsmouth, before impacting Naval Station Norfolk. The tornado damaged vehicles and a building at Pier 2, and numerous trees were blown down or snapped off. The tornado was rated as EF1 from northern Portsmouth to the Norfolk Naval Air Station.					
7/4/2014	12:40 am	EF-0	0.2 mi	0/0	\$5,000
Details: A Tornado touched down near Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk during Hurricane Arthur. Numerous trees were snapped and uprooted. This was the same storm that produced a brief tornado near Lynnwood in Virginia Beach.					
Sources: SPC Storm Database, NCEI Storm Records , MRCC, Local Records.					
Compiled by Ricky Matthews, Emergency Planner, City of Norfolk Office of Emergency Management –April 3 rd , 2025.					
*4/8/1962 Tornado occurred in Norfolk County, in what is now the present-day City of Chesapeake					
					
LEGEND:	TORNADO		WATERSPOUT		
Total – 12 Tornadoes with 4 rated F-0 or EF-0 and 8 rated F-1 or EF-1.					

Tornado Tracks, 1950-2021 (from NWS SPC)

Norfolk city, VA

F-Scale

