Annual Tornado Watch Hours
2003-2014

The analysis is based on data provided to the nonprofit Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH)® by the NOAA/National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma. The data is a compilation of annual averages of all tornado watch hours from 2003 through 2014 for counties in the continental United States and the District of Columbia.

By the Numbers

**TORNADO WATCHES**

States Under Watches not in Tornado Alley*
States in Tornado Alley
States without Watches
States not Included in Data

6 States
12%

2 States
4%

32 States
64%

10 States
20%
By the Numbers

TORNADO WATCHES

Annual Average Number of Hours Under NWS/SPC Tornado Watches (2003-2014)

* As defined by the NOAA National Climate Data Center: “Although the boundaries of Tornado Alley are debatable (depending on which criteria you use—frequency, intensity, or events per unit area), the region from central Texas, northward to northern Iowa, and from central Kansas and Nebraska east to western Ohio is often collectively known as Tornado Alley.” [http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/climate-information/extreme-events/us-tornado-climatology/tornado-alley](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/climate-information/extreme-events/us-tornado-climatology/tornado-alley)

90% Counties Under Watch

27 Average Watch Hours
This table reflects the total average hours, average hours per year, and range of hours per county in any given year from 2003-2014 that have experienced a tornado watch. The table omits the six states (Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) without any tornado watches during the period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total Average Hours (2003-14)</th>
<th>Average Hours Per Year</th>
<th>Range of Hours Per County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>4,884</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>47-99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>4,879</td>
<td>65</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Colorado</td>
<td>596</td>
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