TORNADO

Tornadoes are one of nature's most violent storms. In an average year, 800 tornadoes are reported across the United States, resulting in 80 deaths and over 1,500 injuries. A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or more. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long.

Tornadoes come in all shapes and sizes and can occur anywhere in the U.S at any time of the year. In the southern states, peak tornado season is March through May, while peak months in the northern states are during the summer.

Although large tornadoes are not common, Orange County has the highest occurrence of small to medium tornadoes per square mile in the United States according to FEMA. Between 1958 and 1998 Orange County was hit by 28 tornadoes. The vast majority of those events had Fujita Scale readings of F0, however 2 events reached F2. No deaths and only a small number of injuries have been attributed to these events. The following figure provides information on these events.

Figure 18 - Historic Tornado Events in Orange County (1958-1998)

righte 10 - Instance Tornado Events in Orange County (1750-1770)							
Date	Deaths	Injuries	Fujita Scale	Date	Deaths	Injuries	Fujita Scale
APR 01, 1958	0	0	F1	FEB 28, 1991	0	0	F0
FEB 19, 1962	0	0	F0	MAR 26, 1991	0	0	F1
APR 08, 1965	0	0	F1	DEC 07, 1992	0	0	F1
NOV 07, 1966	0	0	F1	DEC 07, 1992	0	0	F1
NOV 07, 1966	0	0	F2	DEC 29, 1992	0	0	F0
MAR 16, 1977	0	4	F1	JAN 14, 1993	0	0	F1
FEB 09, 1978	0	6	F2	JAN 17, 1993	0	1	F0
JAN 31, 1979	0	0	F1	JAN 18, 1993	0	0	F0
NOV 09, 1982	0	0	F0	FEB 08, 1993	0	0	F0
NOV 09, 1982	0	0	F1	NOV 11, 1993	0	2	F0
JAN 13, 1984	0	0	F0	FEB 07, 1994	0	0	F0
MAR 16, 1986	0	0	F1	NOV 11, 1997	0	0	F1
JAN 18, 1988	0	0	F0	DEC 21, 1997	0	0	F1
JAN 18, 1988	0	0	F0	FEB 24, 1998	0	0	F0

(Reference: http://www.tornadoproject.com/alltorns/catorn.htm California Tornadoes 1888 - 2000)