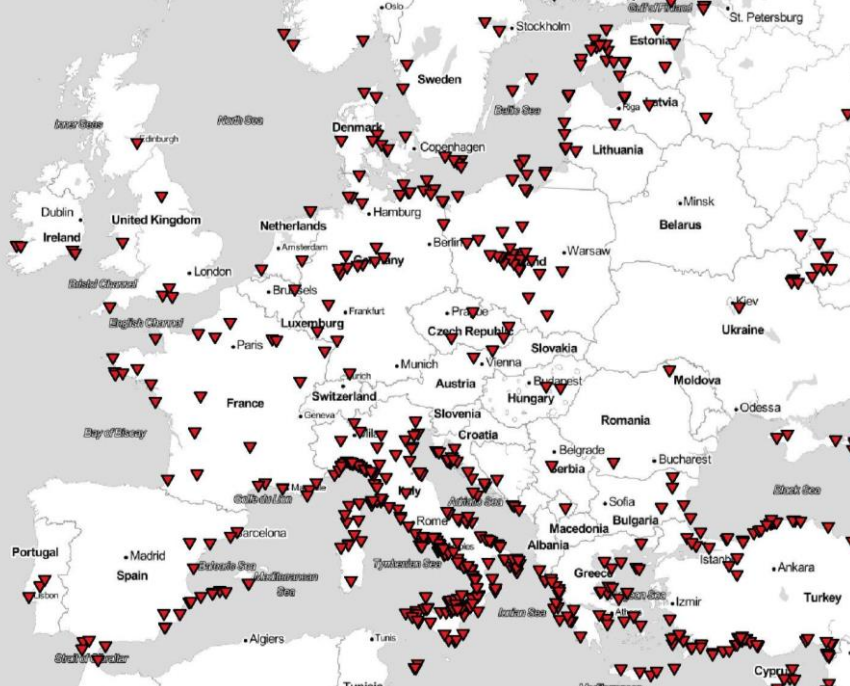


Tornado near Vienna 1919

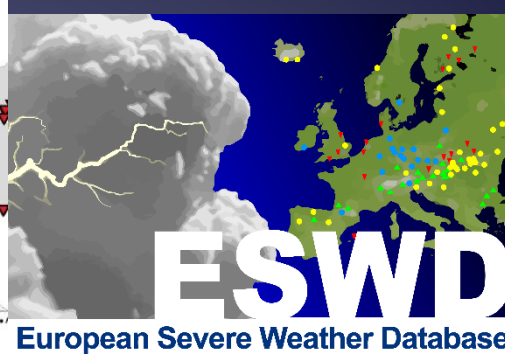
Tornado Info Sheet

Your area has been hit by a tornado or other severe wind event.

- Tornadoes are rare but extremely dangerous weather phenomena. Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air that extend from the surface into a parent cloud. Several hundred tornadoes are observed in Europe every year – most of them are short-lived and occur over the water.
- Some tornadoes can become violent with wind speeds in excess of 400 km/h. Such tornadoes can toss vehicles for hundreds of meters or destroy even sturdy buildings and are typically connected to strongly rotating thunderstorms - called supercells. Even the weaker tornadoes can reach peak winds of 200 km/h and cause significant damage to trees and roofs.
- Many tornadoes have been documented in Europe in the past but it is only in the recent years that stronger emphasis is placed on their detection in Europe. Because tornado paths are typically short and narrow, they almost never hit a meteorological station that observes the weather. In order to establish the nature of the wind damage (tornado or some other phenomenon) and to understand how the tornado can impact the buildings, we need to perform the damage survey as soon as possible after the event.
- Such research forms a basis for future warnings and for safer buildings that are better able to withstand tornadoes. For this reason, the European Severe Storms Laboratory (ESSL) conducts site surveys and damage assessments after strong tornadoes or other extreme wind events. You can find an overview of our research on the website www.essl.org



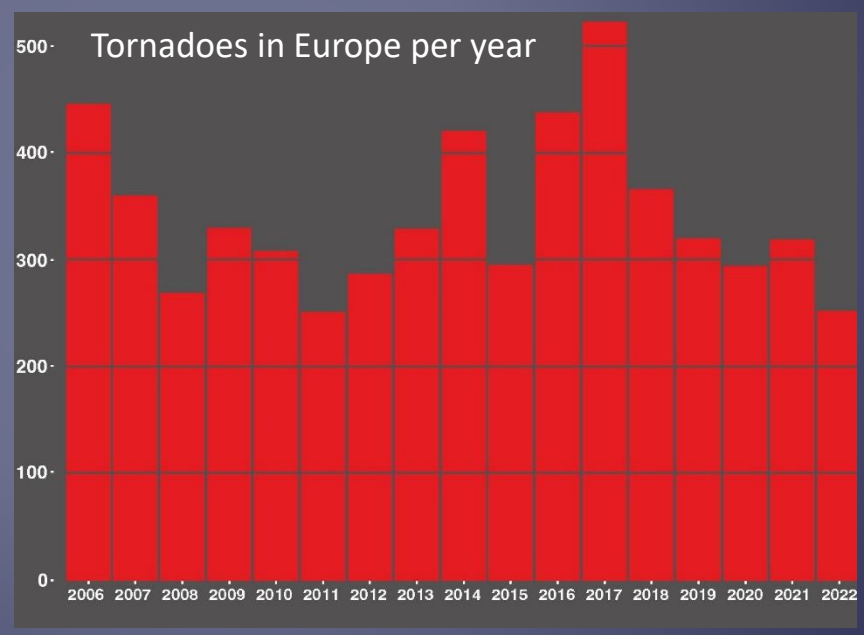
European map on the left:
tornadoes in the year 2022



If you would like to update us with important facts about the event in your neighborhood, please email us at inflow@essl.org

Imprint:

This is an info sheet to be distributed to eye witnesses and affected people after a tornado or other severe wind event while ESSL staff is working on a scientific site survey and damage assessment. The purpose is to inform the general public about the nature of the event and about the work done to minimize future impacts.



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Image references:

3 drawings of historical tornado near Vienna:
O. Myrbach, Die Windhose vom 7. Juli 1919 südlich von Wien, Das Wetter 27, 1920
Map of tornadoes in the year 2022 and graph on tornado reports from 2006 to 2022:
European Severe Weather Database - www.eswd.eu
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