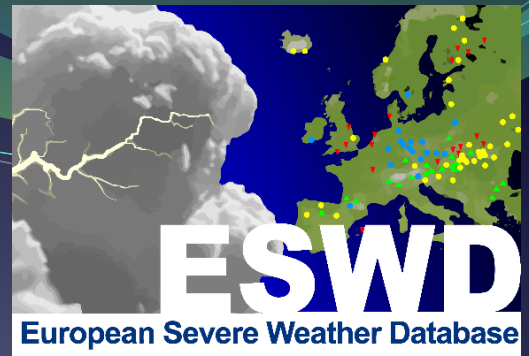


Tornado near Vienna 1919

# 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 Earth's surface up into the parent cloud. Several hundred tornadoes are observed in Europe every year—most of them are short-lived and occur over water.
- Some tornadoes can become very intense, with wind speeds exceeding 400 km/h. Such tornadoes can hurl vehicles hundreds of meters away or even destroy sturdy buildings and are typically associated with strongly rotating thunderstorms—so-called supercells. Even weaker tornadoes can reach wind gusts 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 recent years that greater importance has been attached to their detection in Europe. Since tornado paths are typically short and narrow, they almost never pass over a weather station that is monitoring the weather. To determine the nature of the wind damage (tornado or another phenomenon) and to understand how the tornado can affect buildings, we must conduct a damage assessment as soon as possible after the event.
- Such investigations form the basis for future warnings and for safer buildings that can better withstand tornadoes. For this reason, the European Severe Storms Laboratory (ESSL) conducts site investigations and damage assessments following severe tornadoes or other extreme wind events. You can find an overview of our research on the website [www.essl.org](http://www.essl.org)

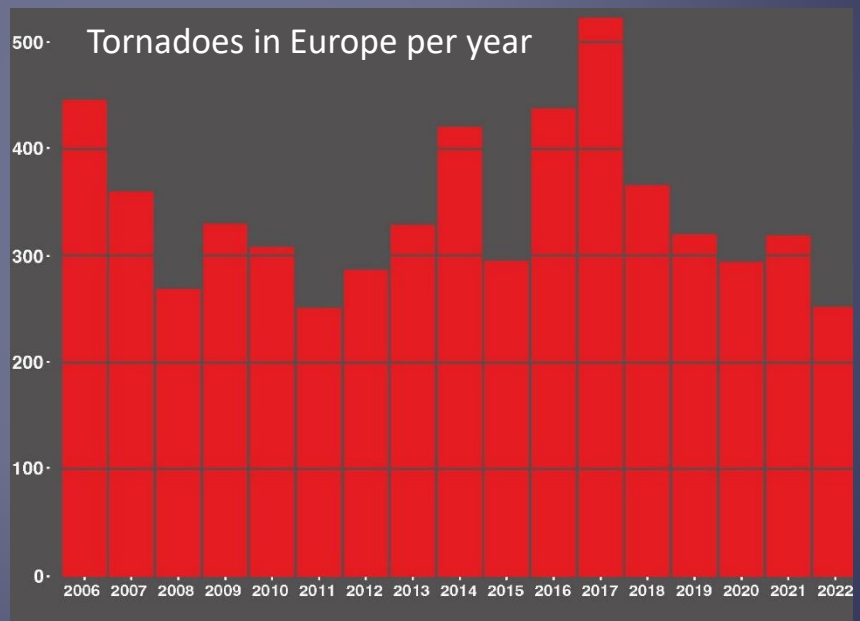


Red symbols on the European map on the left: all recorded tornadoes of the year 2025

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

Imprint:

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



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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 2025 and graph on tornado reports from 2006 to 2022:  
 European Severe Weather Database - [www.eswd.eu](http://www.eswd.eu)  
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