

Annual Disaster/Death Statistics for US Storms

1. Tornadoes

- **The United States averages about 1300 recorded tornadoes every year.** (<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/>)
- **Annually tornadoes cause an average of 1,500 injuries** (<http://www.noaawatch.gov/themes/severe.php>)
- **On average, 70 deaths each year are directly attributed to tornadoes reported** (<http://www.noaawatch.gov>)
- **7th deadliest tornado in US History occurred in 2011, Joplin, MO killing 158 people** (<http://www.spc.noaa.gov>)

2. Thunderstorms

- **Number of thunderstorms occurring in the United States a year: 100,000** (www.naturalhazards.org)
- **Injuries:**
 - i. 1,700 injuries per year due to flash floods
 - ii. lightning injures 300 people in the U.S. each year (www.pathnet.org)
- **Deaths:**
 - i. floods from thunderstorms have accounted for about 76 deaths per year (10-yr average)
 - ii. lightning has caused an average of 52 fatalities per year (30-yr average)
 - iii. thunderstorm winds cause an average of 51 deaths per year (10-yr average) (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>)
 - iv. hail causes an average of one (www.qweather.com)

3. Hurricanes

- **A total of ten tropical cyclones reaching storm strength with six of these becoming hurricanes and two of those actually striking the coast of the U.S.** (www.aoml.noaa.gov)
- **Injuries:**
 - i. hurricanes cause 60 injuries per year
- **In 2005, 1016 deaths were directly attributable to hurricanes** (http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hazstats/resources/weather_fatalities.pdf)

4. Shelters

- **Since 1980, approximately 20,000-30,000 shelters have been built** (exact count unavailable: Larry Tanner, P.E., Wind Science and Engineering Research Center)
- **Approximately 10,000 lives are saved each year due to shelters and emergency plans** (www.fema.gov)
- **36% of Americans do not have emergency preparedness plans**