




## Johnson County, Iowa Severe Weather Risk Assessment (Updated June 2026)

### Quick-Response Severe Weather Threats

<b>Tornado</b>	In extreme cases, wind speeds can exceed 200 mph; however, 74% have wind less than 110 mph. Most fatalities occur with the stronger tornado. <b>Recommendation:</b> Seek immediate shelter in a basement without windows.	
<b>Severe Thunderstorm Wind</b>	Severe wind speeds range from near 60 mph (scattered damage, typically tree branches) to over 120 mph (widespread tornado-like damage). <b>Recommendation:</b> Seek immediate shelter indoors away from windows. For winds over 70 mph, seek shelter in a basement without windows.	
<b>Large Hail</b>	Can reach the size of softballs. <b>Recommendation:</b> Seek immediate shelter indoors away from windows.	

### Severe Weather Injuries/Fatalities in Johnson County, IA - 1995-2023

	Injuries	Fatalities	Notes
<b>Tornado</b>	49	0	Tornado injuries: 5/15/1998, 4/13/2006, 3/31/2023
<b>Thunderstorm Wind</b>	13	1	Wind fatality 5/29/11; injuries 6/29/1998 and 6/30/14

### Severe Weather Events in Johnson County, IA - 1995-2026

	Extreme Hail (golf ball or larger)	Extreme Wind (70 mph or greater measured gusts/damage is not included)	Tornado
<b>Total Events</b>	34	54	27
<b>Average per year</b>	1.1	1.7	0.9
<b>Most in one year</b>	4	7	6

### Severe Weather Warnings\* for Johnson County, IA - 1995-2026

	Tornado Warnings	Severe Thunderstorm Warnings
<b>Warning Basis</b>	Tornado indicated by radar or trained spotters	Thunderstorm with wind over 58 mph and/or quarter sized (1") hail or larger
<b>Average lead time 2007-2026</b>	9 minutes	20 minutes
<b>Average per year</b>	2.5	13.8
<b>Most in one year*</b>	6	34

# Johnson County, IA Risk Assessment *(continued)*

## Notes

- Hail golf ball sized and larger can break house and car windows.
- Severe thunderstorm wind over 70 mph can down whole trees.
- The greatest risk factors for tornado fatalities include being outdoors or in a mobile home, overnight hours, weekends or holidays, and occurrences outside the normal “season”

## Other Thunderstorm Threats

### Lightning:

- Warnings are not issued for lightning because all thunderstorms produce lightning, and all cloud-to-ground lightning is potentially fatal.
- When thunder can be heard or lightning seen, the lightning is within “striking distance”.

**Recommendation:** *Remain indoors during all thunderstorms due to the lightning threat. Wait 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard before resuming outdoor activities.*



### Flash Floods:

- A flash flood occurs within a very short time (generally 6 hours or less) relative to the rainfall.
- Flash Flood Warnings are issued for those storms that produce extreme rainfall rates leading to flash floods.
- Currently, the average lead time for Flash Flood Warnings is 55 minutes.

**Recommendation:** *Initiate flash flood mitigation measures. Flood prone streets should be monitored and barricaded as necessary. People living in flood-prone areas should move to higher ground.*



## Additional Information

### For more information, contact:

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## Resources

National Weather Service Quad Cities .....[www.weather.gov/dvn/](http://www.weather.gov/dvn/)  
National Storm Event Database .....[www.ncei.noaa.gov](http://www.ncei.noaa.gov)  
Impact-Based Warnings.....[www.weather.gov/impacts](http://www.weather.gov/impacts)