

# FACTS ABOUT TORNADOES



Often words are used to describe the type of tornadoes and associated weather conditions. Below is a glossary that can help to explain these words to children.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN THERE IS A **TORNADO WATCH**?

- A tornado watch is when the weather indicates the possibility of wind conditions becoming a tornado.

## TYPES OF TORNADOS

- **Rope Tornado:** This is the most common type of tornado. They are called this because rope tornadoes look just like a rope, long and thin. Most tornadoes start and end as a rope tornado.
- **Cone Tornado:** Cone tornadoes look like a cone. They are wide at the bottom but even wider towards the top where the tornado meets the thunderstorm.
- **Wedge Tornado:** Wedge tornadoes are wider than they are long.

## WEATHER WORDS

- **Funnel Clouds:** Funnel clouds look like a tornado but they never touch the ground.
- **Microbursts:** Microbursts are air that is pushing down creating one funnel. They are smaller and last shorter than tornadoes but are just as dangerous.
- **Tornado Alley:** Tornado alley is the name given to parts of the US where tornadoes most likely happen.
- **Water Spout:** A water spout is a funnel that occurs over water.

## REFERENCES:

- <https://www.air-worldwide.com/blog/posts/2019/6/did-you-know-theres-more-than-one-type-of-tornado/>
- <https://www.weather.gov/ama/microbursts>
- <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/climate-information/extreme-events/us-tornado-climatology/tornado-alley>
- <https://www.weather.gov/apx/waterspout>



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