

National Weather Service Tornado Warning Project

The tornado warning project was developed during the Joplin Tornado Assessment (with Kansas and Missouri). More than 160 people died as a result of the catastrophic EF4 tornado that struck Joplin, MS on May 22, 2011. How the public reacts to tornado warnings is key to human safety and survival.

The National Weather Service has developed three categories of Tornado Warning Impact Coding:

Standard – Base tornado warning

Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS) – Substantial evidence of a significant tornado with high impact

Tornado Emergency – The highest level reserved for rare cases in which a violent tornado will cause devastating damage

March 2, 2012: Tornado in Scioto County (near Franklin Furnace) - Photo by Scioto County EMS