



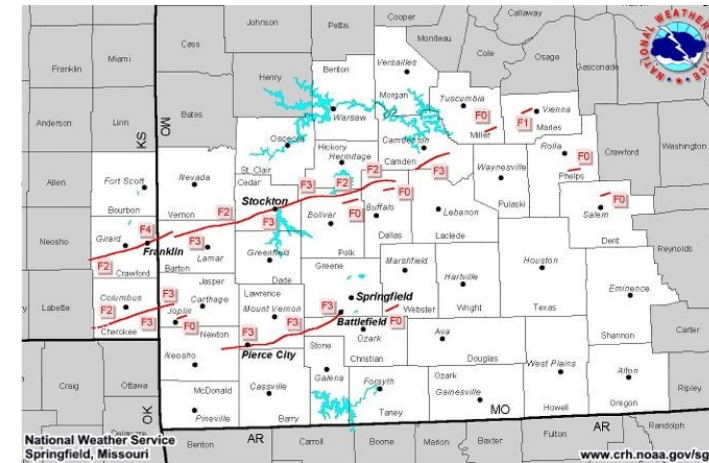
“To provide weather and flood warnings, public forecasts and advisories for all of the United States...and its territories...for the protection of life and property.”

National Weather Service

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National Weather Service

Natural Hazard Risk Assessment Information For: **Oregon County Missouri**



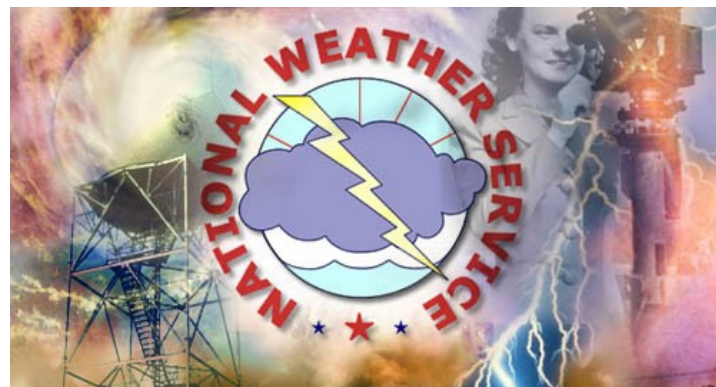
Information Provided By
WFO Springfield, Mo

2009 Update

Includes data and information
through December 2008

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This document is intended to provide general information on severe weather that has affected Oregon County and the communities with in the county.

By Gene Hatch
 Meteorologist Intern WFO Springfield. Mo.

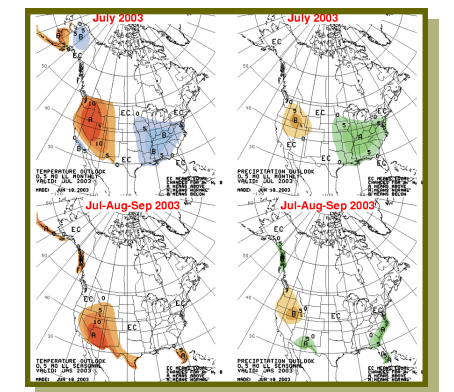
Local Climatology

Averages and records for Alton, Missouri in Oregon County

43	21	3.9	76	-18	22.5
51	25	2.9	82	-10	16.5
60	34	1.6	90	3	22.0
70	43	0.1	92	20	0.6
78	52	0	94	28	0
85	60	0	100	40	0
90	65	0	105	46	0
89	63	0	105	45	0
82	55	0	103	31	0
73	43	0	94	16	0
58	34	1.0	85	1	9.0
48	26	1.9	76	-3	14.5

Links for Climate information

- www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/
- www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/
- www4.ncdc.noaa.gov
- web.missouri.edu/~moclimat/
- mrcc.sws.uiuc.edu/
- agebb.missouri.edu/weather/index.htm



Historic Weather in Southwest Missouri

Jan. 8th-1997...Six inches or more of snow fell over much southwest, south central and central Missouri from noon on the eighth to noon on the ninth. The heaviest snow fell in a band from Cassville to Springfield north to Hermitage where up to ten inches was recorded. Damage estimates at 670K dollars were due to the cost of snow removal.

Mar. 12th-1961...A tornado touched down at 745 am in southern Greene County and moved north-east from near Plainview road towards the KWTO towers. The tornado blew down 2 of KWTO's towers, damaged the roof on the Disney school and damage 3 other homes.

Apr. 23rd-1967...A severe thunderstorm formed over the northwest portion of the city of Springfield, MO spawning a tornado. The weather service office measured a wind gust of 63 mph as the tornado moved through the center of the city. Nearly 1000 homes and businesses were destroyed with one fatality and 9 injuries reported.

May 4th- 2003...Three tornadic supercell thunderstorms formed over southeast Kansas and moved across the Missouri Ozarks, spawning 13 tornadoes. This was a very rare event for this part of Missouri since many of the tornadoes experienced across this area are short lived small tornadoes.



This event surpassed the December 17-18, 2002 tornado event in both loss of lives and property damage, and exceeded tornado events that occurred over the past 100 Years for this part of Missouri. The hardest hit locations included Battlefield, Stockton and Pierce City. 14 tornadoes resulted in extensive damage and 24 deaths. Several of the tornadoes tracked long distances ranging from 15 to 80 miles.

Jul. 19th-1970...An F3 tornado 600 yards wide left 7 injured and nearly 500K dollars of property damage during its 5 mile long track through Oregon county Missouri.

Oct. 18th-1984...During the evening thunderstorms produced an F3 tornado in Oregon county Missouri. During its 26 mile long track one person was killed and another injured. Property damage estimates were near 5 million dollars.

Dec. 24th-1982...During an unseasonal period of severe weather, thunderstorms over Oregon county Missouri produced an F4 tornado. The tornado keep up F4 intensity for 43 miles before dropping to F2 intensity and continuing its progress for an additional 33 miles. During its 35 minute life span it killed 1 person, injured 8 others and did over 10 million dollars of damage.

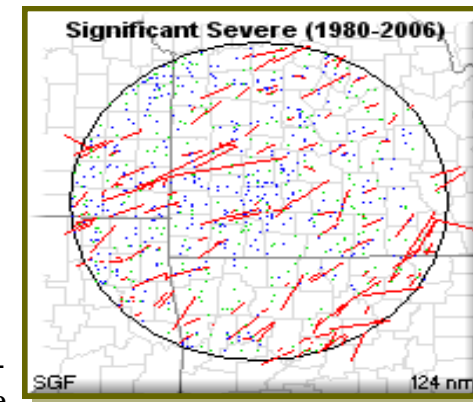


Overview of Weather Hazards in Southwest Missouri & Extreme Southeast Kansas

From 1961 to 2008, 522 tornadoes were reported in the 37 counties that WFO Springfield is responsible for, with an average of 11 occurring each year. There were 71 fatalities from these tornadoes, or near one and a half each year. Tornadoes occurred during every month of the year and at every hour of the day. The majority of these tornadoes are weak, but the occurrence of strong and violent storms is always a possibility and cannot be discounted.

The Ozarks experiences between 50 and 70 thunderstorm days a year. During any given storm, large hail, damaging winds and microbursts are possible. The Ozarks go through three severe thunderstorm seasons during the course of the year. The spring season is the period that supercell thunderstorms are most common, next comes summer as large clusters of storms move across the region, mainly during the overnight hours. Finally fall sees the return of supercells and tornadoes, squall lines and training storms (thunderstorms that form and move over the same area).

The region is affected during the course of any year by flooding, drought, heat and cold extremes and winter storms. Heat extremes and flooding have caused the greatest number of fatalities in the area. Winter storms affect the region in many forms. Ice storms, heavy snow and extreme cold have occurred across the area. Freezing rain is the typical form ice storms in the Ozarks take. Ice storms have deposited 2 to 3 inches of ice during their duration causing power outages, tree damage, and traffic problems.



Weather in the Ozarks

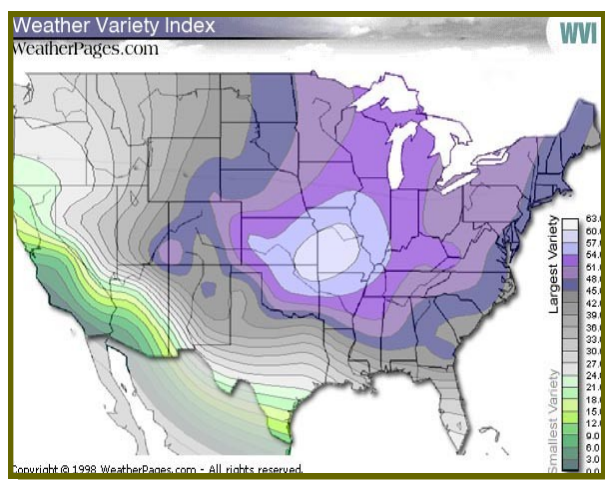
Tornadoes by county for the Springfield County Warning Area from 1950 to 2008

County	F0/1	F2	F3	F4	F5	County	F0/1	F2	F3	F4	F5	County	F0/1	F2	F3	F4	F5
BARRY	20	7	1	0	0	DOUGLAS	8	6	1	0	0	OREGON	9	4	2	1	0
BARTON	23	1	3	1	0	GREENE	19	10	3	1	0	OZARK	21	2	2	1	0
BENTON	18	2	4	0	0	HICKORY	8	1	1	0	0	PHELPS	15	4	2	0	0
BOURBON,KS	10	5	0	0	0	HOWELL	20	11	3	1	0	POLK	16	3	0	0	0
CAMDEN	15	6	1	0	0	JASPER	30	5	4	1	0	PULASKI	9	4	1	0	0
CEDAR	10	2	3	0	0	LACLEDE	9	6	1	0	0	SHANNON	11	1	1	0	0
CHEROKEE,KS	28	5	2	1	0	LAWRENCE	11	2	3	0	0	ST.CLAIR	13	2	2	0	0
CHRISTIAN	19	2	1	1	0	MARIES	4	3	0	0	0	STONE	10	3	0	0	0
CRAWFORD,KS	19	11	3	1	0	McDONALD	11	5	0	0	0	TANEY	6	1	0	0	0
DADE	11	2	2	0	0	MILLER	22	3	0	0	0	TEXAS	14	8	1	2	0
DALLAS	7	1	1	0	0	MORGAN	11	7	0	0	0	VERNON	20	1	6	0	0
DENT	8	1	1	0	0	NEWTON	30	5	1	2	0	WEBTSE	19	7	2	0	0
												WRIGHT	10	4	0	1	0

Historical information for Oregon County, Missouri

Severe Weather in Oregon County

In 2000, a private company looked at 277 cities across the United States. They rated each city on variations in temperature, precipitation and other factors. Of all the cities in their study Springfield, Missouri rated number one as the city with the most variable weather in the U.S.

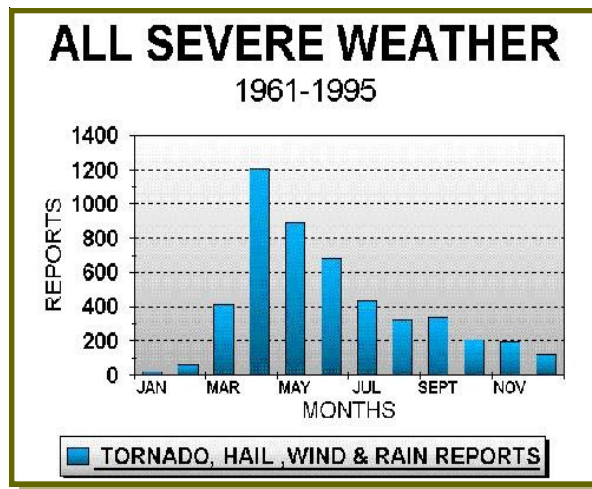


From www.weatherpages.com

Oregon County Missouri is located on the Ozark Plateau along the eastern edge of tornado ally. Because of its location Oregon County is subjected to severe thunderstorms, heavy rainfall, winter storms, flooding, ice storms, droughts, tornadoes and other wind storms.

When does severe weather occur ?

Severe weather in the Ozarks can occur in any month of the year. While the months of April through June are the peak severe weather season, there is a secondary peak from September to November.



Severe thunder storms in Oregon County have dropped hail up to 2 3/4" in diameter, created winds in excess of 70 miles an hour and rainfall rates greater than 2" in an hour. While southwest Missouri receives nearly 11 tornadoes a year, Oregon County averages an event every 3 1/2 years.

Number of Tornadoes in Oregon Co. (1950 to 2008)

<u>F0/F1</u>	<u>F2</u>	<u>F3</u>	<u>F4</u>	<u>F5</u>
9	4	2	1	0
56%	25%	13%	1%	0%

During the winter season Oregon County averages 11.4 inches of snow. With the most snow in one season at 42.3 inches, falling during the 1975 to 1976 winter season. Ice storms also affect the county during the winter season causing significant damage to homes, trees and utilities.

Dam Failure

Dams in Oregon County

Oregon County contains 8 dams. While the majority of these dams are small and used primarily for storm water management, irrigation and recreation, some are a part of local reservoirs. All of the dams in Oregon County are of earthen construction and there have been no recorded failures.

Where are they Located

- Mc Cormack Dam: Cormack Hollow Creek, Greer
- Snow Lake Dam: Janes Creek, Pocahontas, AR.
- Nuwer Lake Dam: Frederick Creek, Couch
- Taylor Lake Dam: Whites Creek, Riverton
- Hix Lake Dam: Piney Creek, Alton
- Young Lake Dam: Piney Creek, Alton
- S. Jones Lake Dam: Diles Creek, Dalton, AR.
- Wendt Lake Dam: Pocahontas, AR.

All of the dams in Oregon County are less than 100 feet high. Many are located on private land and fall under private ownership.



Spillway gates open to relieve water after heavy rainfall.



Heat, Drought and Wildfires



Excessive heat is the leading cause of weather fatalities in the nation. With the variability of the weather in southwest Missouri, it is not surprising that excessive heat impacts Oregon county on almost a yearly basis.

Oregon County averages 7 days a year with temperatures at or above 95 degrees. July and August are the two warmest months, which average 3 days at or above 95 degrees.

Year	Days 95* +	Days 100* +	Days in a row
1969	23	4	10
1978	26	4	14
1983	21	4	6
1998	28	3	5
1999	41	9	18
2000	26	10	8
Normal # of Days	7	1	▲ Above 95*

Years with above average summer heat

Drought and wildfires can, and often do accompany excessive heat. Oregon County has gone through dry periods and drought. The latest droughts occurred in 1999 and 2000 when well below normal rainfall and high temperatures combined to produce drought conditions.

Longest periods without rainfall in Oregon County

- 44 days: 14 Sept 1963 ~ 27 Oct 63
- 41 days: 16 Aug 1976 ~ 25 Sept 76
- 39 days: 29 Sept 1964 ~ 6 Nov 64
- 36 days: 3 Aug 1967 ~ 7 Sept 67
- 33 days: 8 Mar 1967 ~ 9 Apr 67
- 32 days: 13 Aug 1998 ~ 13 Sept 98

While no major wildfires have affected Oregon County, small grass fires do pose a hazard.

A twenty year study by the Missouri Department of Conservation, from 1970 to 1989 determined that over 4000 fires occurred during that time in the Eminence fire district which includes Shannon, Oregon, Carter, and Ripley counties. This represented nearly 7% of the wildfires in the state with over 43,000 acres burned.

There are numerous ways wildfires can be started, but when dealing with weather related phenomenon, namely lightning, only 0.8% of the wildfires in the Eminence fire district were the result of lightning.

Tornado Information

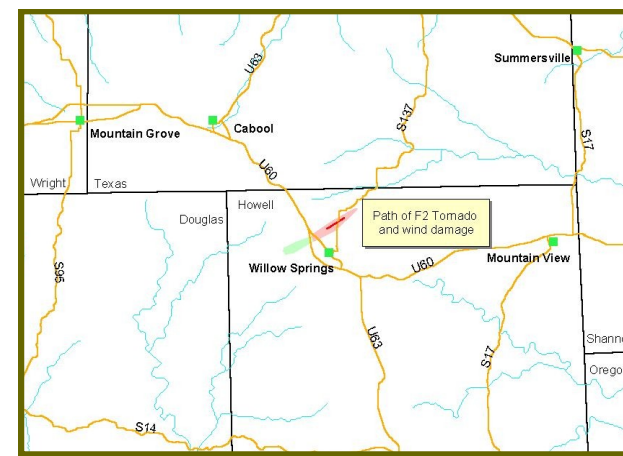
Oregon County lies at the eastern edge of tornado ally and receives on average a tornado every 3 1/2 years. From 1950 to 2008 Oregon county recorded 11 tornadoes from F0 to F4 in strength. The strongest tornado, an F4, passed across the county on the evening of December 24th, 1982. Along its 25 mile track it caused 2.5 million dollars in damage and injured 6.

Historical Tornadoes of Oregon County

- Apr 29, 1909 (F3) 14 inj, 9 dead
- Mar 28, 1924 (F2) 1 inj, 0 dead
- Nov 25, 1926 (F4) 2 inj, 0 dead
- May 1, 1933 (F3) 22 inj, 0 dead
- Jan 29, 1947 (F3) 1 inj, 0 dead
- Jan 29, 1947 (F4) 15 inj, 1 dead
- Jul 19, 1970 (F3) 7 inj, 0 dead
- Dec 24, 1982 (F3) 4 inj, 0 dead
- Oct 18, 1984 (F2) 1 inj, 0 dead

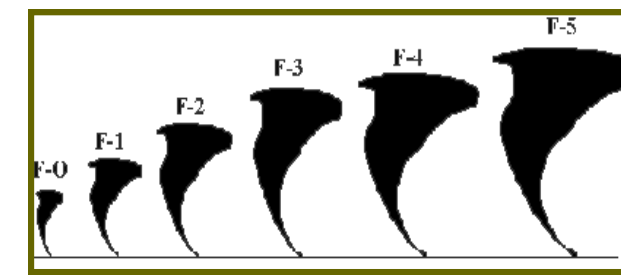
For the Record Oregon County

- Has experienced two F4 tornadoes.
- No F5 tornadoes
- Most recent Tornado January 8, 2008 (F0)
- 10 deaths and 71 injuries since 1880.



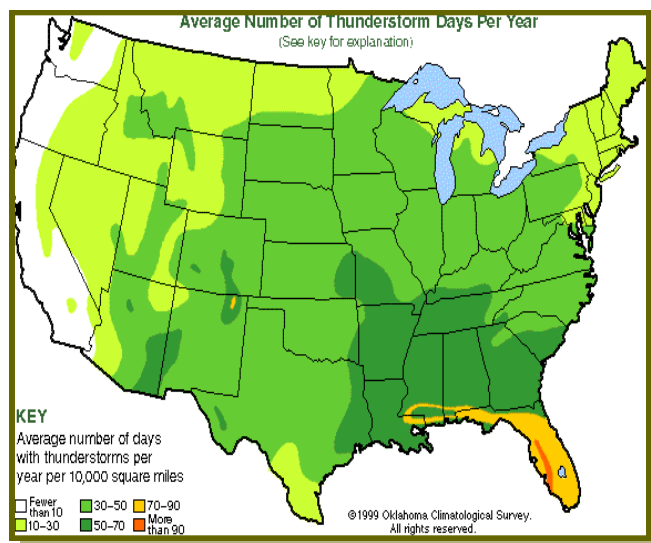
The tornado outbreak of May 4, 2003 was the one of the worst that southwest Missouri has had since the late 1800's. Fourteen tornadoes touched down across the Ozarks during the evening of May 4th. This was the first out break of tornadoes to strike Near Oregon county since an F2 that struck Willow Springs in April of 2002.

- **F-0:** 40-72 mph, chimney damage, tree branches



- broken
- **F-1:** 73-112 mph, mobile homes pushed off foundation or overturned
- **F-2:** 113-157 mph, considerable damage, mobile homes demolished, trees uprooted
- **F-3:** 158-205 mph, roofs and walls torn down, trains overturned, cars thrown
- **F-4:** 207-260 mph, well-constructed walls leveled
- **F-5:** 261-318 mph, homes lifted off foundation and carried considerable distances, autos thrown as far as 100 meters.

Severe Hail, Lightning, Wind and Winter Weather



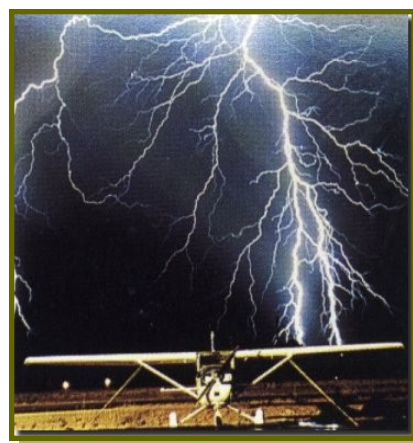
Average number of thunderstorm days per year.

Thunderstorms occur in the Ozarks on the average of 50 days per year.

April and May are the two most active hail months in the Ozarks. There is also evidence of a minor secondary peak in September. The greatest number of hail reports over 2 inches occur in the months of April, May and June with the largest report being 2.75 inches in diameter in Oregon county on May 13, 1984. Hail can cause considerable damage to homes, vehicles, and crops.

Severe thunderstorm winds are defined by the NWS as convective wind gusts that reach or exceed 50 knots (58 mph). June is the most active month with April a close second. In general, the most active period for damaging wind events occurs from April to August. This is due in part to the shift from supercell thunderstorms to large clusters of storms and squall lines. The highest wind gust recorded in Oregon county reached 75 mph and occurred in 2003 on the 6th of May. Since 1975 high winds have caused around \$123,000.00 in damages.

With any thunderstorm, lightning will be present and the safest place to be is indoors. In August of 2002, four people were killed near Willard in Greene County during a funeral. As a thunderstorm moved into the area, the victims sought shelter under a tree.



Nationally, Missouri ranks 27th in Lightning fatality rate, 44th in injuries and 38th in property damage related to lightning. During the period from 1960 to 1994, the total number of lightning casualties in Missouri was 165. This is nearly five casualties per year in the state.

Winter weather across the Ozarks comes in many forms. Freezing rain or drizzle, sleet and snow are common occurrences during the winter season. In the past the Ozarks have had up to 54 inches of snow, Sleet storms that produced inches of sleet and ice storms that laid a covering of one to two inches of ice on most surfaces. While the immediate impact of these storms is to travel, winter storms cause hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages across the region on a near yearly basis.

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21 Feb 2001: Sleet, freezing rain and embedded thunderstorms caused ice accumulations from one quarter, up to two inches in places across southwest, central and south central Missouri. The heaviest ice accumulations occurred along and north of Highway 60, and along the I-44 corridor. Howell-Oregon electric cooperative reported numerous power outages due to the ice around the communities of Willow Springs, Birch Tree, Mountain View, Winona, Eminence and Dora.

Flooding

From 1993 to 2002 Flooding has occurred in Oregon County in every year. While usually nuisance flooding such as water on city streets, significant flooding has caused numerous problems in the county. During the previous decade, only one injury and no deaths have been attributed to flooding in Oregon County. Oregon County contains numerous low water crossings.

Typically, flooding in the county is caused by heavy rainfall associated with high rain producing thunderstorms which move very slowly. In towns, rainfall of one to two inches will cause streets and ditches to flood and make some low water crossings impassable. When rainfall rates reach 3 to 4

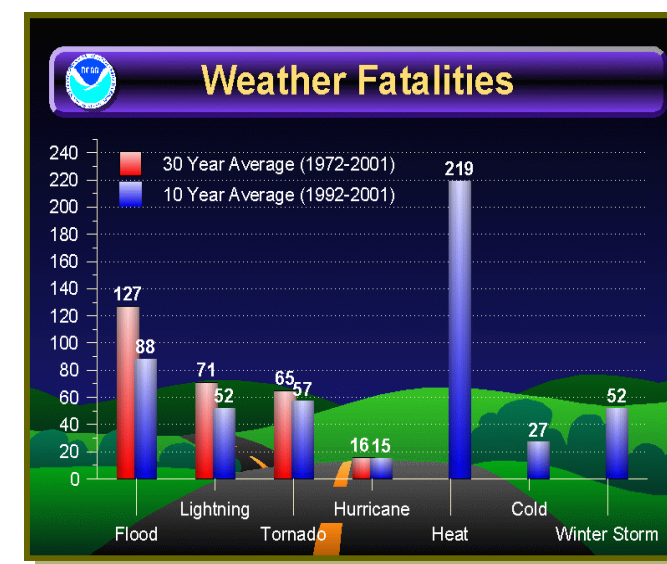


inches, major flooding can occur, and amounts over four inches creates significant flooding that affects most of the county.

Floods in Oregon County

14 Nov 1993: Eleven Point River flash flooded over parts of Highway 99 damaging the road surface and shoulders. Three feet of water was over the road in some spots. Highway 142 was also closed due to flash flooding by a small creek on the west edge of Thayer.

12 July 2002: This was the third major flood event to occur within a 10 day period. Some communities reported over a foot of rain since the beginning of May. This area of excessive rainfall fell over mostly southern Missouri, south of Interstate 44 from the night of May 16, through the morning



National Weather Fatality Statistics

May 17th. Over an inch of rain fell over a broad area of southern Missouri, with bands of three to six inches from Joplin to Carthage, Powell to Cassville, Ozark to Mansfield, and from Licking to Akers in northern Shannon County. Even though there were three days of dry weather, runoff was not complete from the previous flooding event, therefore, flash flooding developed quickly.

14 Apr 2002: A broad area of one to three inches of rain fell over Howell and Oregon counties during the late evening of April 14th. The Eleven Point River basin received one to three inches of rainfall. This flooded areas along Highway 142 near Calm plus recreational and camping facilities over eastern Oregon county. In Howell county, flash flooding that occurred earlier due to excessive rainfall in a short period of time, continued to have flooded low water crossings, county, and secondary roads.