

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
August 7, 1934

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed July 31, 1934

NIGHTTIME TORNADOES

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

Tornadoes are decidedly commoner during the daylight hours than after dark; a fortunate circumstance, since when a distant tornado is seen approaching people usually have time to seek shelter under ground or to get away from the path of the whirling monster. A good many of these storms do, however, occur during the hours of darkness.

Finley's "Report on the Character of Six Hundred Tornadoes," published in 1882 by the U.S. Signal Service, which embraces records for nearly 90 years, lists 53 tornadoes as having occurred between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. There were 398 that occurred when there was more or less daylight, while in the remaining cases the hour of occurrence was not recorded.

A list of all known tornadoes in Alabama for more than a century, published by Welby Stevens in 1925, shows that out of 194 for which the time was accurately known 83 occurred between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Records for three states during the years 1924-28 show the following distribution between daylight and darkness:

Texas	29 daytime	39 nighttime
Kansas	60 daytime	29 nighttime
Indiana	17 daytime	6 nighttime

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

-----  
SCIENCE SERVICE  
21st and Constitution Ave.  
Washington, D.C.