



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Wichita Chapter

May 2024

Believe in yourself – even when no one else does - Sasquatch

2023 Kansas Tornado Overview

Tornadoes: 44

- 17 below the 1950-2023 average of 61
- 37 below the past 30 year average of 81
- 41 below the past 10 year average of 62

Fatalities: 0 **Injuries:** 2

Longest track: 11.59 miles
(Chase County, April 19, EF2)

Strongest: EF2 (Brown County, May 12 & two in Chase County, April 19)

Most in a county: 9 (Chase County)

Tornado days: 19 (Days with one or more tornadoes)

Most in one day: 11 (May 11)

Most in one month: 20 (May)

First tornado of the year:
February 26 (Seward Co., 4:42PM CST, EF0, 3.89 mile length, 10 yard width)

Last tornado of the year:
October 12 (Mitchell Co., 2:39PM CST, EF0, 0.01 mile length, 20 yard width)

Length of tornado season:
229 days (Days between first and last tornado)

Click below to see the full [2024 KANSAS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS Information Packet](#) PDF.

CHEMICAL INJURIES

The most common injuries from hazardous chemicals are burns to the skin and eyes. The damage typically occurs quickly, at the time of exposure, but can develop over time. Symptoms include itching, skin irritation, pain or numbness, blisters, and/or bleached, reddened or darkened skin. Severe burns may also cause shock, and the victim may turn pale, have shallow breathing or even faint. Immediate treatment is essential because the longer the chemical stays on the skin, the deeper and more serious the burn can be. Chemicals can penetrate the eye membrane in less than 10 seconds, and the skin in 15 seconds or less. You can't always tell how severe the burn is by how it looks. Contact your supervisor immediately and follow the emergency procedures on the Safety Data Sheet.

Chemical health hazards can also come from inhaling a gas, mist, or dry particles suspended in the air. This could be gases from gas cylinders, vapors from gasoline or bleach, fumes from metal welding operations or a powdered chemical that become airborne. These hazards can also be either acute, severe, short-term and dangerous or chronic, present over a long period of time.

SAFETY STRATEGIES

Hazardous chemicals can be managed safely with the use of these strategies:

- Follow all the established procedures. They are in place to protect you and your co-workers.
- Make sure all current and new employees are aware of the location of the Safety Data Sheets (SDS). Read the labels and SDS for the chemicals you are handling to ensure you understand how to handle the chemical and what to do in case of an emergency.
- Properly handle and store all chemicals according to the SDS. Never transfer chemicals into a different container unless it's necessary. If it is, ensure the new container has the proper label.
- Always use the proper personal protective equipment for the chemicals you are using such as: goggles, gloves, aprons and hazard suits.
- If you are not sure you are wearing your PPE properly, ask your supervisor to check. And if you see a co-worker without PPE who should be using it, stop what you are doing and make sure they put on the PPE.
- Use chemicals only for their intended purpose. For example, don't ever use solvents to clean your hands or clothing.
- Follow proper housekeeping procedures. After using, put chemicals back into storage in their designated place, and ensure the containers are clean and sealed properly so the next employee to use them isn't exposed to the chemical.
- Do not eat, smoke or drink where chemicals are handled, processed or stored.
- Wash hands carefully before eating, smoking, using the toilet, handling cosmetics or touching your contact lenses, even if you were wearing PPE when you were handling the chemicals.
- Do not use any chemical if the label is missing or the cap is damaged.
- Don't take any risks, if in doubt ask your supervisor.

By taking chemical use and exposure seriously, we can keep ourselves and each other safe.

