

Tornadoes are rated by their size and strength on a scale known as the Enhanced Fujita Scale. An EF1 tornado is a small twister that knocks over garbage cans and small trees. The Joplin tornado was an EF5—the strongest kind. These monstrous twisters can destroy most buildings, yank trains off their tracks, and pick up tractor-trailer trucks as if they were toys.

FAITH AND NEIGHBORS

Many people were trapped in the wreckage of homes and stores. Hundreds were horribly injured. Many staggered through the doors of St. John's hospital, which was closest to the damage zone. But the hospital building had taken a direct hit. Nurses had thrown themselves on top of patients to protect them from flying glass and debris. Rooms were demolished. Six people were dead. There was no power, and water gushed from broken pipes. Doctors and nurses worked

ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE FOR TORNADOES

Wind Speed	EF Scale	Typical Damage
65–85 mph	0	Minor or no damage
86–110 mph	1	Moderate damage
111–135 mph	2	Considerable damage
136–165 mph	3	Severe damage
166–200 mph	4	Extreme damage
200+ mph	5	Total destruction of buildings

ONLY 2
PERCENT OF
TORNADOES
ARE EF5