Midwest Significant Events – March - May 2025

Blizzard conditions brought 6-10 inches of snow and 40-50 mph winds across lowa and Minnesota on March 4-6. On March 13-15, a deadly severe weather outbreak spawned at least 47 tornados across the lower Midwest. A long-duration ice storm March 28-30 crippled northern Wisconsin and Michigan with up to an inch of ice.

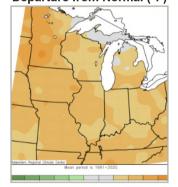
An intense weather system spawned at least 75 tornadoes across the lower Midwest on April 2-3, with drenching rain in the east and 8-15 inches of snow in Minnesota. Continuous storms battered Kentucky April 2-6, with rainfall totaling 6-16 inches. April was notably windy across the northwestern half of the region. Madison, Wisconsin, logged 13 days with gusts over 30 mph.

A 12-17 day stretch in early May of hot, dry, and windy weather created high wildfire risk across Minnesota and Wisconsin. The highest fire risk was from May 11-14 when temperatures surged across the northwest. International Falls reached 96°F on May 11, setting an all-time record for the month. Severe weather outbreaks on May 15 (upper Midwest) and May 16 (lower Midwest) dropped large hail, high winds, and at least 47 tornadoes across the region.

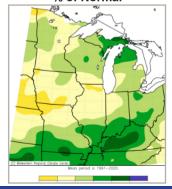
Two large fires ignited in northeast Minnesota on May 12-13. The fires took weeks to contain and burned over 30,000 acres. A 60 hour freezing rain On May 16, high winds event from March 28-30 over dry cropland spawned blanketed northern the largest dust storm to Michigan and Wisconsin affect several states and the with up to an inch of ice. Chicagoland area since the mid-1930s. On April 2, 23 tornadoes touched down in the On May 16, an EF-3 Paducah area, setting a single-day record for tornado hit a populated that region. area of St. Louis, Missouri, killing four people and causing extensive damage.

Regional Climate Overview - March - May 2025

Spring TemperatureDeparture from Normal (°F)



Spring Precipitation % of Normal



Spring temperatures were above normal across the entire region, with the greatest departures from normal across Minnesota. Overall, the Midwest tied for the 13th warmest spring on record. March had the most notable warmth, with the region achieving the 9th warmest March since 1895. April was slightly above normal while May was slightly below normal.

Spring precipitation was near normal for the region, with notable wetness across the far southern Midwest and northern Michigan. Kentucky had its 4th wettest spring since 1895. Precipitation was variable from month to month across the region. Michigan had its 2nd wettest March. Kentucky had its 2nd wettest April.

Drought improved across the region during spring. The lower Midwest ended spring completely free of drought or dryness. Isolated pockets of drought remained across the upper Midwest.

Many states had above-normal tornado activity. In the first five months of the year, preliminary tornado counts for Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Missouri exceeded their typical annual tornado count. Conversely, lowa had few tornadoes so far this year, including no tornadoes during the month of May.

Spring Tornado Warnings

Departure from Average (count)
Period of record: 2002-2025

