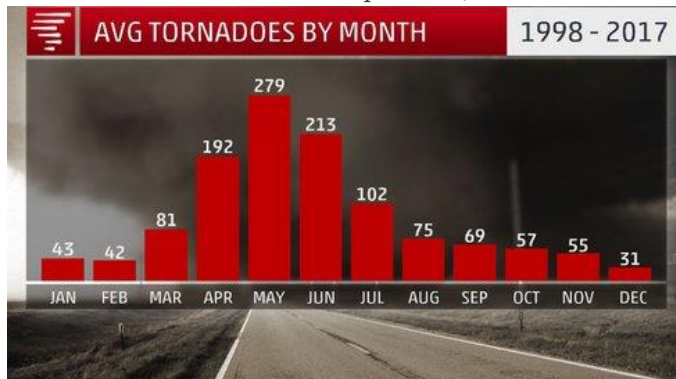


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Strong tornadoes can occur in any month, but weather history shows April, May and June are the months with the most potential of having both the greatest number of tornadoes and the most intense tornadoes in a given year.

The U.S. averaged 1,239 tornadoes annually during the 20 years from 1998 to 2017, 55 percent of which were sandwiched between April and June.



In addition to volume, tornado intensity is also a factor. About 58% of all twisters rated F3/EF3 or stronger (1950-2012) touched down in those three months, (statistics by Dr. Greg Forbes). This rises to 69% when examining tornadoes F4/EF4 or stronger.

The most violent F5/EF5 rating has been assigned to 59 tornadoes dating back to 1950, and all but 10 of those occurred in April, May or June.

All tornadoes pose a threat, but intense twisters account for a higher number of fatalities and damage. About 83% of the deaths from 2000 through 2013 were from tornadoes rated EF3 or stronger, according to Forbes.

The reason why tornadoes are more common in spring is because the required atmospheric ingredients come together more often this time of year.

Tornado outbreaks occur when a storm system propelled by a strong, southward dip in the jet stream punches into the Plains, Midwest or South. This is accompanied by warm and humid air flowing northward out of the Gulf of Mexico.

The jet stream provides deep wind shear, or changing wind speed and direction with height, supportive of rotating supercell thunderstorms.

If wind shear is particularly strong in the first few thousand feet near the surface, these supercells would more likely produce tornadoes.

STREET ROBBERS (STRONG ARMED OR ARMED WITH A WEAPON) PROFILE AND LOOK FOR EASY VICTIMS.

People with their heads on a swivel make the criminals think twice. Avoiding certain areas, not staying out late and not flashing valuables helps keep your target profile low.

However, contrary to a narrative perpetuated by Hollywood, a burglar breaking into your home through a window or by crashing a rear door at 2 a.m., and that you'll wake to secure our family, call 911 and be ready with home-defense firearm just in case, is highly improbable. Breaking into a residence when its owners are home, in most states, turns a burglary into a home invasion - a Class X felony, punishable by life in prison.

Home burglaries are more likely to occur during the daylight hours when no one is home. When confronted by the sound of a homeowner, many burglars flee right back

out the same way they came in. Most that is, but not all, which is why it's always a good idea to keep a home-defense firearm close at hand, if needed. This issue explores the tactics of the "Ruse Burglar".

Situational awareness and the need to not flash valuable items when out and about in order to avoid attracting the attention is a common practice. However, many often fall into a false sense of security when at home. It's there that many mistakes are made by those who are otherwise aware and armed most of the day. Here are a few tips on keeping your home and valuables secure, even when you're not there.

Ruse-entry burglars will walk right into your home if your front door is open. They look for people out working in their yard. If a screen door is unlocked and the front door is open, that's a ripe target for these kinds of thieves. Be vigilant at all times and keep your front door shut and locked on summer days when you may be working in the yard. Most attached garage lead directly into the home so keep your garage door closed when you're not where you can keep an eye on things.

Ruse-entry burglars will walk into your unlocked home and proceed directly to your master bedroom, target your dresser tops (jewelry boxes full of valuables) and your top drawers (more jewelry, watches and cash). They'll take your pillowcase in which to put your property. That way, they're not carrying a sack when they enter your home. They will check kitchen drawers and china cabinets for checks, cash and other potentially valuable items. If they are confronted, they often pretend not to speak English and feign they are sorry but needed a drink of water.

Never let anyone inside your home without proper identification and know that most legitimate workers do not need to be inside your home. Among dozens of scams, some **ruse-entry burglars** will ring your bell and say they are with a local utility company. Close the door and say that you will make a call and verify before letting anyone inside. Legitimate workers will wait and the fakes will take off. **Ruse burglars** are skilled at gently pushing and talking their way inside, experts at convincing you that they need to turn on your kitchen water. While you stand there watching for a change in pressure, they'll have gone through your house to everything they can find.

Another tactic of the **Ruse Burglar** maybe to lure you outside. While you're made to believe you're being considerate, "I'm your new neighbor and I need you to come to look at where I want to build a fence along your property" scam, a second accomplice sneaks inside your home while you're distracted. Another common ploy is, "Can you look at this lost dog outside that I'm trying to return to its owner? Have you seen it in the neighborhood?" The scenarios are endless. If any of these swindlers arrive at your door, slam it shut and call the police. Then make sure someone didn't enter your home somehow while you were at the front door.

If one of these ruse-entry burglars did happen to get into your home, what would they find? Would they find your home-defense or concealed-carry handgun in that dresser drawer on top of your socks? Or are you smart and you have it carried on your person or secured in a lock box? It's also important to note that some states require guns to either be carried on your person or locked away in a safe. Keeping it hidden in an unsecured location may be illegal, so check your state and local laws.