

## What is the Lowest Temp. and Dew. that a tornado can form.

Posted by zipcountry - 2011/04/29 22:49

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I have looked this up many times and have gotten many different answers. I have seen a tornado happen on the radar in Topeka and the temperature was in the 40s and dew point the upper 30s. I mean how much lower can it go? Like could it happen at below zero? :dry:

Edit:

Zip, do you have a link to this event?

Reply:

I just saw it on the radar one day back in late Febuary

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## Re:What is the Lowest Temp. and Dew. that a tornado can form.

Posted by NCtraveler - 2011/04/29 23:40

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EDIT: You'd probably do better to just ignore this post and look at James' response, I should've looked this stuff up first haha :silly:

I should start off by saying I'm assuming you're referring to the surface temperature of a given location. Theoretically, I'd imagine that with a strong enough air inversion and accordingly high lowest cloud level (LCL) heights, you could probably have a tornado form with surface air temperatures around 36°F; anything lower and I think the likelihood of the LCL height and inversion to be low enough to produce a tornado or the funnel extending long enough to become a tornado are just too great to overcome. I'm gonna do a Google search now and see if I can find some info about this....

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## Re:What is the Lowest Temp. and Dew. that a tornado can form.

Posted by James1 - 2011/04/30 01:53

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Not to cut across you Ari, but you'd want a low LCL (Lifted Condensation Level) or where the relative humidity of a parcel would hit max so a cloud base would condense at a lower level. As for the dewpoint, there have been tornadoes in New Mexico with dewpoints around 30 I think (right on the dryline).

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## Re:What is the Lowest Temp. and Dew. that a tornado can form.

Posted by NCtraveler - 2011/04/30 02:29

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James1 wrote:

Not to cut across you Ari, but you'd want a low LCL (Lifted Condensation Level) or where the relative humidity of a parcel would hit max so a cloud base would condense at a lower level. As for the dewpoint, there have been tornadoes in New Mexico with dewpoints around 30 I think (right on the dryline).

Thanks for that correction man, I haven't the slightest idea why I though it was "lowest cloud level". That was just my best guess at it.

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