

Anatomy of a tornado

SUPERCELL TORNADO: Most powerful twisters formed from thunderstorm lasting more than one hour

Over-shooting top

Direction of storm

Upper-level winds 12,000-18,000m

Mid-level winds

3,000-6,000m

Downdraft

Updraft:
Warm air at ground level rises

Wind shear: Winds at two levels in different directions or speeds causes updraft to rotate

Condensation funnel

Hail, snow, heavy rain

Forward flank down-draft

Low-level winds

