

Hello Matthew,

Thank you for reaching out to the National Weather Service with your questions. The short answer is, no. All weather-hazard related deaths in the United States are recorded as fatalities with no further information or considerations as to the scope of their injuries or why they perished. With tornado fatalities in particular, the only additional information that is recorded for our official record-keeping purposes would have been supplied by the local NWS Weather Forecast Office, whatever the jurisdiction is that the tornado happened to occur. In a slightly more detailed report, called the Public Information Statement - normally a day or two after the storm, which constitutes the official surveying of the damage, the office may have decided to mention some additional observations about a structure or how the tornado could have impacted various damage indicators. That however, is only for the purposes of determining a rating of the damage and therefore the tornado itself. The rating is not an indicator of building codes, manufacturing rules or regulations, or when they were enacted, or anything to do with these categories - only how meteorologically, a specific wind speed may have lead to that damage.

For your questions about fatalities inside or outside of factory-produced homes. Again, no distinction or considerations are made about how building materials led to a person's death, where the person was located, etc. If a fatality occurs as a direct result from the tornado passing through, i.e. flying debris, crushed by debris/trees, or anything having directly linked to the tornado itself, it is just counted as a fatality with no additional information. The EF-scale (<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/efscale/>) (<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/efscale/ef-scale.html>) that was adopted by the NWS about 10 years ago takes into account what are called "damage indicators" and then uses a "degree of damage" which considers how "bad" the damage was to that indicator, so that it can be assigned a range of possible wind speeds. All of this information was based off of many research efforts, scientifically and peer-reviewed reports, and is the only link between the NWS and the building regulatory world. Again, with no considerations for fatalities.

The National Weather Service's mission is to provide accurate and timely watches, warnings, and advisories on incoming or ongoing hazardous weather and to be official record of the effects of these hazards as it relates to the phenomena of meteorology. If you would like to research any particular severe weather events for your own purposes, you may do so through the "Storm Events Database" hosted through NOAA's National Center for Environmental Information (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>).

I hope this information is beneficial and thank you again for your questions.

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