

Tetsuya Theodore “Ted” Fujita

(October 23, 1920-
November 19, 1998)

Meteorologist

Japanese American

Place of Birth: Kitakyūshū
City, Japan

Place of Death: Chicago,
Illinois

Invention: Fujita Scale (F-
Scale)

Fujita Scale	
F-0	40-72 mph winds
F-1	73-112 mph
F-2	113-157 mph
F-3	158-206 mph
F-4	207-260 mph
F-5	261-318 mph

Enhanced Fujita Scale *In use since 2007*	
F-0	65-85 mph winds
F-1	86-110 mph
F-2	111-135 mph
F-3	136-165 mph
F-4	166-200 mph
F-5	>200 mph



Calvin Mei (SFSU 2025)

Tetsuya was a meteorologist who moved to the United States and joined the University of Chicago’s Meteorology Department in 1953. Throughout his career, Tetsuya was known for his meticulous study of tornado damage and was nicknamed “Mr. Tornado.” In 1971, he invented the Fujita (F) Scale, which classifies tornadoes based on damage intensity. The F-Scale became an internationally accepted standard for measuring tornado severity, and a modified version is used today. Tetsuya has multiple awards including NASA’s Public Service Medal in 1979 and the Japanese Order of the Sacred Treasure (Gold and Silver Star).