



Adams County Emergency Management

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Wisconsin's Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week April 8-12, 2019

(Friendship) Gov. Tony Evers has declared April 8-12 as Wisconsin's Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week. Wisconsin Emergency Management, the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association (WBA) have once again teamed up to sponsor the statewide tornado drills scheduled for Thursday, April 11.

Schools, businesses, families, and individuals have two opportunities to test their emergency plans during statewide tornado drills April 11. The drills are part of the annual spring severe weather campaign to encourage everyone in Wisconsin to be ready for possible tornadoes and severe weather.

According to the NWS, Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually. However, in 2018 the National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed 33 tornadoes in the state. This included 19 tornadoes on Aug. 28, the second largest August tornado outbreak in Wisconsin's weather history. One of those tornadoes near Brownsville in Dodge County was rated EF2 with winds near 125 mph - the strongest of the year.

The drill on April 11 will begin with a mock tornado watch at 1 p.m., followed by a statewide mock tornado warning at 1:45 p.m. Many radio and TV stations across the state will issue the test tornado warnings. In addition, mock alerts will be issued on NOAA Weather Radios and many communities will sound their tornado sirens to test their emergency severe weather plans. Later, a mock tornado warning will be issued at 6:45 p.m. to give families and second-shift workers a chance to practice their emergency plans.

The tornado drill will take place even if the sky is cloudy, dark or rainy. If actual severe storms are expected in the state on Thursday, April 11, the tornado drills will be postponed until Friday, April 12 with the same times. If severe storms continue Friday, the drills will be cancelled. Any changes will be issued to local media as well as posted on the ReadyWisconsin website at <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>. Updates will also be posted on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin), Twitter (www.twitter.com/ReadyWisconsin), and Instagram (www.instagram.com/ReadyWisconsin).

If you need further information, please contact Jane Gervais, Adams County Emergency Management Director at 608-339-4248.

**2019 Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Drills
Scheduled for Thursday April 11, 2019**

The 2019 Tornado Drills will consist of a **mock tornado watch** and **mock tornado warnings** issued for all of Wisconsin. This is a great opportunity for your school, business and community to practice your emergency plans.

DRILL SCHEDULE:

1:00 p.m. – National Weather Service issues a mock tornado watch for all of Wisconsin (a watch means tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms).

1:45 p.m. - National Weather Service issues mock tornado warning for all of Wisconsin (A warning means a tornado has been sighted or indicated on weather radar. Move to a safe place immediately).

2:00 p.m. – End of 1:45 p.m. mock tornado warning drill

6:45 p.m. – National Weather Service issues a mock tornado warning for all of Wisconsin.

7:00 p.m. – End of 6:45 p.m. mock tornado warning drill

The tornado drills will take place even if the sky is cloudy, dark and/or rainy. If actual severe storms are expected in the state Thursday, April 11, the tornado drills will be postponed until Friday, April 12, with the same times. If severe storms are possible Friday, the drills will be cancelled. Any changes will be issued to local media as well as posted on the ReadyWisconsin website at <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>. Updates will also be posted on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin), Twitter (www.twitter.com/ReadyWisconsin) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/ReadyWisconsin).

This is a great opportunity for you to practice your tornado emergency plan with family, friends, and co-workers. Schools will also participate in the drill. During storm season – follow this message: Listen, Act and Live. Don't ignore watches and warnings. Listen and take action. Every second counts. Don't wait... go to a safe place right away!

Many local radio, TV and cable stations will be participating in the drills. Television viewers and radio station listeners will hear a message at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. indicating that "This is a test." The mock tornado warnings will last about one minute on radio and TV stations across Wisconsin and when the test is finished, stations will return to normal programming.

In addition, alerts for both the mock tornado watch and warnings will be issued over NOAA weather radios. Be sure your weather radio is turned on for this test. If the alarm on your weather radio does not go off for this test, check your weather radio's programming and quality of reception.

Tornado Safety Before the Storm:

Develop a plan for you and your family for home, work, school and outdoors. Know the safest shelter areas in multiple locations.

- Have frequent drills.
- Keep a disaster supply kit in your home including water, food that won't spoil and needs no heat to serve, first-aid kit, NOAA Weather Radio (also known as an emergency weather radio), a flashlight and special items for children, pets and elderly family members.
- Be sure your weather radio is working properly. Spring is a great time to install fresh batteries.

Tornado Watch: Severe thunderstorms with tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. Be prepared to move to safety if a **Warning** is issued. Know what counties are in the watch area by listening to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards or local radio or television stations.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Thunderstorms with large hail and damaging winds are possible. Be prepared to move to safety if a **Warning** is issued.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Move to a place of safety now!

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: A thunderstorm with large hail and damaging winds has been reported or indicated by weather radar.

Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm!