

Tornado Awareness & Drill  
Apr 12, 2018

**Wisconsin's Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week**  
April 9-13, 2018

2018 Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Drills  
Scheduled for Thursday April 12, 2018

The 2018 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 12th, the tornado drills will be postponed until Friday, April 13, 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](http://www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin)), Twitter ([www.twitter.com/ReadyWisconsin](http://www.twitter.com/ReadyWisconsin)) and Instagram ([www.instagram.com/ReadyWisconsin](http://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 at Home, Work, or at Play**  
**Listen, Act, and Live**

- In a home or building, avoid windows. Move to a basement, and get under a sturdy table or the stairs. If a basement is not available, move to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and cover yourself with towels, blankets or pillows. If possible, get under a sturdy table, desk or counter. Put as many walls as possible between you and the storm. Wearing a bike helmet will help protect your head.
- If outdoors, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If you cannot get to shelter, stay in your vehicle with the seatbelt on and place your head below the windows. Do not seek shelter under an overpass.

- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes. You should leave a mobile home and go to the designated storm shelter or the lowest floor of a sturdy nearby building.
- At school, go to the interior hall or room. Crouch low, head down, and protect the back of your head with your arms. Stay away from windows and large open rooms like gyms and auditoriums.

(Debris fills the site of a mobile home park near Chetek in Barron County, which was hit by an EF3 tornado that traveled along an 83-mile long path through four counties on May 16, 2017. One person was killed.)

#### 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.

If you need further information, please contact your county or tribal emergency management director or Andrew Beckett at [andrew.beckett@wisconsin.gov](mailto:andrew.beckett@wisconsin.gov) or 608-242-3211.

2018 Wisconsin Tornado / EAS PSA

Information furnished by Wisconsin Emergency Management

Contact: Andrew Beckett

Office: 608-242-3211

Cell: 608-572-6073

Email: [andrew.beckett@wisconsin.gov](mailto:andrew.beckett@wisconsin.gov)