

TORNADO AND SEVERE WEATHER

Each year, roughly 21 tornadoes touch down in Wisconsin. Your safety depends on being alert and cautious. Be sure that you understand the difference between a tornado watch and warning. A Watch means, "Watch" the sky. Weather conditions are right for tornadoes to form. A Warning means a tornado has been sighted. **TAKE COVER IMMEDIATELY!** Seek shelter in your basement. If you don't have a basement, go to a bathroom or closet with no windows on the first floor. Remember to cover and protect your head. For more safety tips, contact your county emergency management director.

Do you know what to do in the event of severe weather? Families, schools, and businesses should have an emergency plan in case of threatening weather. This includes knowing where to go for shelter, what to do if severe weather strikes, have a NOAA Weather Radio to monitor conditions, and put together a Disaster Supplies Kit that contains a flashlight with fresh batteries, bottled water, a first aid kit, and blankets. Remember your safety depends upon knowing what to do should a severe storm strike. For more safety information, contact Green County Emergency Management (608) 328-9416.



What To Do Before Severe Weather Strikes



Before the Storm:

- Develop a plan for you and your family for home, work, school and outdoors.
- Have frequent drills.
- Know the county/township in which you live, and keep a highway map nearby to follow storm movement from weather bulletins.
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone and battery back-up to receive warnings.
- Listen to local radio and television stations for further information.

A Disaster Supplies Kit Should Include:

- A 3-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person.
- Blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first-aid kit, including prescription medicines.
- Emergency tools, including a battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a portable radio, flashlight, and plenty of extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys and a credit card or cash.
- Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members.

Other Resources for Tornado and Severe Weather:

Wisconsin Emergency Management

<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>

National Weather Service — *Links to local NWS offices*

<http://www.weather.gov>

American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org>

Federal Emergency Management Agency — *A Guide to Citizen Preparedness*

<http://www.fema.gov/areyouready>

For more information, please contact Green County Emergency Management (608) 328-9416.



What To Do When Severe Weather Strikes



TORNADO WATCH: Conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms.

TORNADO WARNING: A tornado is imminent (based on weather radar information) or has been sighted by spotters. If a tornado warning is issued for your area - move to your pre-designated place of safety. SEEK SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH: Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms with damaging straight-line (downburst) winds and/or large hail.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING: Severe thunderstorms with damaging straight-line winds and/or large hail are imminent or are occurring.

Where to Go In Severe Weather:

In a house with a basement: Avoid windows. Get in the basement and under some kind of sturdy protection (heavy table, work bench or stairs), or cover yourself with a mattress or sleeping bag.

In a house with no basement, a dorm, or an apartment: Avoid windows. Go to the lowest floor, small center room (like a bathroom or closet), under a stairwell or in an interior hallway with no windows. Crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down; and cover your head with your hands. Even in an interior room, you should cover yourself with some sort of thick padding (mattress, blankets, etc.), to protect against flying or falling debris.

In an office building: Go directly to an enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building -- away from glass. Then, crouch down and cover your head. Interior stairwells are usually good places to take shelter. Stay off elevators - you could become trapped in them if the power is lost.

In a mobile home: Get out! Most tornadoes can destroy even tied-down mobile homes. If your community has a tornado shelter, go there fast. If there is a sturdy permanent building within close distance, seek shelter there. Otherwise, lie flat on low ground away from your home, protecting your head. If possible, use open ground away from trees and cars, which can be blown onto you.

At school: Follow the drill! Go to the interior hall or room in an orderly way as you are told. 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.

In a car or truck: Get out of the vehicle immediately and seek shelter in a permanent building. Do not try to out run a tornado. If there is no shelter, lie flat and face down, protecting the back of your head with your arms.