



COUNTY of MANITOWOC

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Wisconsin's Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week

Manitowoc County to sound sirens for April 12th tornado drills

(MANITOWOC) - Schools, businesses, families, and individuals have two opportunities to test their emergency plans during statewide tornado drills on Thursday, April 12th, 2018. The drills are part of the annual Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week held April 9-13th to encourage everyone in Wisconsin to be ready for possible tornadoes and severe weather.

On April 12th, a mock tornado watch will be issued at 1:00 PM followed by a statewide mock tornado warning at 1:45 PM. Many radio and TV stations across the state will broadcast the test tornado warnings and the Manitowoc County Joint Dispatch Center will activate tornado sirens. In addition, mock alerts will be issued on NOAA Weather Radios. Later, a mock tornado warning will be issued at 6:45 PM and tornado sirens will be sounded again to give families and second shift workers a chance to practice their emergency plans.

As part of the April 12th test, sirens will be sounded in the City of Kiel, City of Manitowoc, City of Two Rivers, Town of Gibson, Town of Mishicot, Town of Two Creeks, Village of Cleveland, Village of Kellnersville, Village of Mishicot, Village of Reedsville, Village of St Nazianz, and the Village of Valders. Note, sirens on E Hillcrest Rd east of Highway 42 and on Cherney Rd south of Fisherville Rd in northeast Manitowoc County will not be sounded for the drill as a courtesy to specific agricultural operations.

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 12th, the tornado drills will be postponed until Friday, April 13th, with the same times. If severe storms are possible Friday, the drills will be cancelled.

As a reminder, tornado sirens are designed to warn people outdoors when a warning is issued. They may not be easily heard inside your home or be loud enough to wake you during a tornado. Individuals, families, and businesses are encouraged to purchase a NOAA Weather Radio or use a phone application to get warnings indoors or be alerted during the night.

Residents are also encouraged to identify a shelter location within their home or business and practice taking shelter there during the drill. Shelter locations should be on the lowest level of a sturdy structure in an interior room with no windows. A basic emergency supplies kit should also be kept in your shelter location. Your kit should contain a three day supply of non-perishable food & bottled water, blankets, a first aid kit, a flashlight, an AM/FM radio, a portable cell phone charger, and extra batteries. In addition, consider putting a whistle in your kit to signal for help if there is a collapse and you cannot get out of your shelter location.

According to the National Weather Service, the State of Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually. Last year, there were 23 tornado touchdowns in the state. While most were either EF0 or EF1, the state did record an EF3 on May 16, 2017. The tornado followed an 83-mile path across Polk, Barron, Rusk, and Price counties, killing one person and causing widespread damage. The state also experienced an outbreak of 10 tornadoes on June 14, 2017, across Shawano, Winnebago, Outagamie, Brown, and Waushara counties.

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