

Severe Weather Watches and Warnings

What to Listen For...

When conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop, a WATCH is issued. As storms develop, National Weather Service personnel use information from weather radar, storm spotters, and other sources to issue Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado WARNINGS for areas where severe weather is imminent or already occurring.

Watches and warnings are relayed to local radio and television stations and are broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.

Local public safety officials also get the warnings, and can activate local warning systems to alert communities.

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!

For More Information...

Check out these web sites for more safety tips, the latest weather forecast, and other weather awareness information.

NOAA National Weather Service

<http://weather.gov>

Click on your part of the state for local weather information

Find the NWS on Facebook

<http://facebook.com>

Search for your NWS Office name



Follow the NWS on Twitter



Green Bay: @NWSGreenBay

La Crosse: @NWSLaCrosse

Milwaukee/Sullivan: @NWSMKX

Minneapolis/Chanhassen: @NWS TwinCities

Wisconsin Emergency Management

<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>

ReadyWisconsin

Web - <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>

Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin>

Twitter - @ReadyWisconsin

FEMA for Kids

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

Ready Classroom: K-8 Preparedness Resources

<http://readyclassroom.discoveryeducation.com>



Stay Informed with NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards

The “Smoke Alarm” for Severe Weather

- NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) All Hazards is a public warning system that broadcasts forecasts, warnings, and emergency information 24 hours a day.
- Radio receivers can quietly monitor these broadcasts and will alert when important (life threatening) messages are issued for your area.
- “All Hazards” messages include:
 - ▶ Natural disasters (e.g., tornado, floods, blizzards)
 - ▶ Accidents (e.g., chemical release, train derailments, nuclear power emergencies)
 - ▶ Terrorist attacks
- **Please ensure they are used.** During an emergency, seconds count! These radios are a valuable alerting device, easy to use, and can also be used to check on every-day weather, including wind chill information during the winter.
- Place your radio in areas that are constantly monitored (e.g., school office, principal’s office). Remember those occasions when the school is used for activities outside normal hours and make sure the radio can be monitored during those times.
- If you have any questions about weather radios, contact your local National Weather Service office.



Related Web Sites

NOAA Weather Radio Home Page.....	www.weather.gov/nwr
NWS All Hazards Web Page.....	www.weather.gov/nwr/allhazard.htm
NWR Coverage in Wisconsin.....	www.weather.gov/mkx/nwr-table.php

Wireless Emergency Alerts

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are weather and non-weather messages sent directly to cell phones in areas affected by an emergency. These short messages may look like text messages, but unlike texts which are sent directly to your phone number, they are broadcast to all phones within range of cell towers in the alerted area. The alerts will tell you the type of warning, the affected area and the duration of the event. Weather alerts sent as WEAs in Wisconsin include Tornado Warnings and Flash Flood Warnings.

For more information on WEAs and a list of participating carriers, visit FEMA's Commercial Mobile Alert System web site: <http://fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/cmas.shtm>

Family Disaster Plan

Be “Weather-Ready”

Families should be prepared for all hazards that could affect their area. The National Weather Service and Wisconsin Emergency Management urge every family to develop a family disaster plan.

Where will your family be when disaster strikes? They could be anywhere—at work, at school, or in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children are safe? Disaster may force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services—water, gas, electricity, or telephone—were cut off?

Put together a family disaster plan that answers those questions—and practice it.

A Disaster Supplies Kit should include...

- A three-day supply of water and food that won't spoil.
- One change of clothing per person.
- One blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first aid kit, including prescription medicines.
- A battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio.
- Emergency tools, including 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.
- Don't forget about your pets and their food and medicine.

Did You Know...

Wisconsin Tornado Weather Facts

- Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes a year, but in the last ten years, we've had as many as 62 and as few as 4.
- The peak tornado season in Wisconsin is April to August, but they can occur any time of year, like the two tornadoes in Kenosha County on January 7, 2008.
- Tornadoes can occur any time during the day or night, but are most frequent between 4 pm and 9 pm.
- About 80% of tornadoes that hit Wisconsin are relatively weak, with winds under 110 mph. Only 1% are violent with winds over 170 mph.

Other Weather Awareness Dates

Wisconsin's NOAA Weather Radio
Awareness Day

May 8, 2013

Wisconsin's Heat Awareness Day

June 13, 2013

National Lightning Safety
Awareness Week

June 23–June 29, 2013

Wisconsin's Winter Weather
Awareness Week

November 4–8, 2013