

Be Informed

A NOAA weather radio is like having your own emergency siren in your home. Or think of it this way, it's the smoke alarm of the weather world.

A weather radio is one of the best ways to protect your family when disaster strikes. Emergency radios are a 24-hour source of weather forecasts, watches, warnings and other emergency information. If there is no emergency, the radio goes into a silent stand-by mode. When there is an emergency it sets off an alarm alerting you to the danger. These radios use S.A.M.E. technology which allows you to program your radio to alarm only for hazardous conditions that affect your county.

Make sure the unit has a back-up battery so you can continue to get warnings even if the power goes out. Also, consider a portable emergency radio especially if you do a lot of outdoor activities or road trips. You can purchase emergency radios for \$30 at most electronic stores, hardware stores and even neighborhood drug stores.



Be Prepared

Some of the dangers associated with tornadoes and severe weather include a loss of power, telephone service and a shortage of supplies. To help protect your family, now is the time to put together a home emergency supply kit. Here are some items to include:

- * Flashlights and extra batteries
- * Battery-powered NOAA weather radio and a commercial radio
- * Non-perishable food that requires no cooking
- * Bottled water
- * First-aid supplies
- * Extra medications and baby items
- * Moist towelettes for sanitation
- * Make sure pets have plenty of food, water and shelter

For additional kit items, go to:

readywisconsin.wi.gov

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter:

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For more information contact your county or tribal emergency management office.

"Listen, Act and Live" is an initiative by Wisconsin Emergency Management, county and tribal emergency management offices.



Listen Act and Live!



Listen, Act and Live!

May 22, 2011....one of the deadliest tornadoes in U.S. history strikes Joplin, Missouri directly killing 159 people and injuring over 1,000. The massive EF-5 with winds over 200 mph hit the city of more than 50,000. Despite the tornado warnings why there were so many deaths? A National Weather Service study on the Joplin Tornado reveals important lessons learned:

Listen:

A majority of residents did not immediately seek shelter when tornado warnings were issued. Listen to warnings from emergency weather radio, commercial radio or TV stations and other sources and stay informed until the danger is past.

Act:

People needed between two and nine warnings to take action and seek shelter. For example, if they heard the sirens going off they would look at the sky, go to a TV to get information and then call a friend, etc.

When you hear a tornado warning is issued- *seek the best shelter you can find immediately.*

Live:

The time it took between the initial warning and the search for information on the danger cost lives. Getting to the safest place possible right away would have saved lives. Hopefully the storm will pass with no danger, but don't bet your life on that hope.

Top 3 Tornado Safety Myths

- * **Seek shelter under highway overpass:** No, take shelter in sturdy reinforced building if possible.
- * **Go to SW corner of basement:** No, go to basement and get under a table or staircase. Corner doesn't matter.
- * **Open windows before tornado hits:** No, get away from windows ASAP.

Tornado Safety

Here are some ways protect yourself, your friend and your family from tornado danger.

Get Low, Get Inside—Go to the basement and get under a sturdy table or the stairs. Specifically constructed “safe rooms” within buildings offer the best protection. If a basement is not available, move to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor. Get under a table or cover yourself with whatever is at hand. Put as many walls as possible between you and the storm. Stay away from windows.

If caught outside– Seek shelter in a sturdy building. If you can't quickly get to a shelter, either stay in your car with the seatbelt on or exit the vehicle and get lower than the roadway covering your head with your hands.

If in a mobile home– Get out! Seek shelter in a designated storm shelter or the lowest floor of a sturdy building nearby.

At Work or School— Conduct tornado drills so everyone knows where to go, what to do, and be accounted for. Go to an interior hallway or room with no windows. Interior bathrooms and closets are also good shelter areas. Crouch low, head down, and protect the back of your head with your arms. Stay away from large open rooms like gyms and auditoriums.

Participate in the statewide tornado drill— On Thursday, April 18th, Wisconsin will conduct a statewide tornado drill.

1pm: National Weather Service will issue a Mock Tornado Watch..

1:45pm: National Weather Service will issue a Mock Tornado Warning. Tornado sirens will be activated. Radio and TV stations will also broadcast the mock warning.

The drill will take place even if the sky is cloudy, dark and/or rainy. If actual severe weather is expected, the drill will be postponed until Friday, April 19th.

Be Ready for any emergency

- * Make a family emergency plan
- * Get an emergency supply kit
- * Be informed about different types of emergencies that can occur in your area and how you would respond.

Visit readywisconsin.wi.gov for more.

Preparedness Quiz

Does your family have an emergency plan?

Every family needs a plan in case of an emergency. Before an emergency happens, sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. You may also want to ask about emergency plans at places where your family spends time, such as a school or workplace. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one.

What should your plan include about being separated from your family during a disaster?

Determine a neighborhood meeting place and a regional meeting place in case you cannot return home. Identify an out-of-town emergency contact. It may be easier to make a long-distance call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact can help communicate among separated family members. If the voice service on your cell phone is down, try text messaging.

What specific items should you consider having in an emergency kit?

Prescription medications, infant formula and diapers, pet food and other pet supplies, important family documents such as copies of insurance policies and bank records and games or other activities for children.