



STATE OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Tornado Outbreak Reminds Everyone To Be Ready

(MADISON) – People in Wisconsin and across the nation are witnessing the raw destructive power of tornadoes this spring:

- April 10, 2011... 15 confirmed tornadoes touch down across the State of Wisconsin. It's the sixth biggest single day tornado outbreak since 1844.
- May 22, 2011... 11 confirmed tornadoes touch down across the State of Wisconsin. It's the tenth biggest single day tornado outbreak since 1844. The storms caused at least \$15 million in damage. One tornado travels 70 miles from Monroe to Portage County, one of the longest tornadoes in Wisconsin's recorded history. Two of the tornadoes had wind gusts of 135mph (see map below).
- 26 confirmed tornadoes in Wisconsin in 2011 so far
- Average annual Wisconsin tornado count for 1981-2010... 23

"The takeaway from all this, everyone needs a sense of urgency. When you hear the warnings, take action immediately. It is critical that we're all ready for more storms this spring and summer," says Tod Pritchard, Wisconsin Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Here are things you can do to protect yourself and your family:

- Emergency Weather Radio: It's like having your own personal emergency siren. First the radio sets off an alert tone. Then it tells you what is happening, where the severe storm or tornado danger is located and where it is headed. You can purchase a radio at retailers across the state for under \$50.
- Make a Plan: This Memorial Day weekend is a great time to talk to your family about what to do in the event of severe storms and tornadoes. Designate a place to take shelter in your home, office and school. Find a spot in your basement where you can take cover under a table, work bench or stairs to protect you from falling debris. You should also cover yourself with blankets or a mattress to protect against falling or flying debris. If you don't have a basement, go to an interior room or closet in the house with no windows. Crouch down low and cover your head. If you are caught outside, seek shelter in a sturdy building.
- Get a Kit: In the event of a major storm, you may have to sustain yourself and your family for many hours before help arrives. Having an emergency kit with water, a first aid kit, flashlights and other critical supplies can help you survive.

For more information on tornado safety and storm preparedness, go to <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>. You can also get statewide tornado watches and warnings by joining us on Facebook or Twitter.

May 22, 2011 Tornado Locations & Other Severe Weather

