



Office of the County Administrator

Emergency Management

Joshua Schoemann, County Administrator

Rob Schmid, Emergency Management Coordinator

Herbert J. Tennes Government Center
432 E. Washington Street
P.O. Box 1986
West Bend, WI 53095-7986
(262) 335-4399

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Rob Schmid, (262) 335-4399

April 2, 2019

Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week

County to participate in statewide "test" tornado warning

West Bend, WI - Gov. Tony Evers has declared April 8-12, 2019, as Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin. This awareness campaign is launched every April to remind people of the dangers associated with tornadoes, thunderstorms, flooding, and hail and to encourage citizens to educate themselves regarding protective safety measures.

"All residents of Washington County are encouraged to become familiar with the designated shelter areas and weather procedures needed to be safe," said Emergency Management Coordinator Rob Schmid. "This week is a great reminder that we do have tornados in our region like the one last May in Richfield. We should all take tornados and severe weather seriously and discuss preparations with our family."

On Thursday April 11, Washington County will participate in the statewide tornado drill. The drill will begin with a "test" tornado watch issued at 1:00 p.m. and a "test" tornado warning to be issued at approximately 1:45 p.m. This portion of the drill will conclude at 2:00 p.m. Then, there will be a second "test" tornado warning issued at 6:45 p.m. This will allow families to practice their home emergency procedures as well as the second shift of area businesses/agencies. *NOTE: there will be no "test" tornado watch issued prior to the evening test – just the warning at 6:45p.m. This portion of the drill will conclude at 7:00 p.m.*

These drills will test the notification procedures that take place during a severe weather event. Various types of watches or warnings are issued by the NWS and disseminated to local dispatch centers. From there the dispatch centers pass along the information to local public safety agencies and key personnel. These are the same watches or warnings available to the public through the media or over the NOAA weather radio network.

Weather warning sirens in Washington County are owned and operated locally by the various cities, villages and towns. Due to this fact, the sirens in your area may or may not sound on April 11 depending on participation by the local jurisdiction in the drill, or the fact that a particular system may choose not to deviate from its normal testing schedule. If actual severe weather occurs anywhere in the state on April 11, the drill will be postponed until Friday, April 12.

Washington County Emergency Management, along with Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), ReadyWisconsin, the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association (WBA), and the National Weather Service (NWS), are once again promoting Wisconsin's Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week. WEM has sent out a press packet to all state media containing background information. Additional information can be found on the WEM website: <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov> or the ReadyWisconsin website: <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>

###

DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROSPER.