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Environmental Health and Safety Committee

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A newsletter for and about safety at UW Oshkosh

2013 Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Drill

Scheduled for Thursday April 18, 2013

Just like last year all counties in Wisconsin and Minnesota will be participating in the mock tornado warning at the same time.

DRILL SCHEDULE:

1:00 pm – National Weather Service issues a mock tornado watch for all of Wisconsin.

This will be broadcast on the campus BRG clock system. (a watch means tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms). **Monitor TV, radio, cell phone, NOAA radio for further weather information**

1:45pm - National Weather Service issues mock tornado warning for all of Wisconsin (a warning means a tornado has been sighted or indicated on weather radar. Move to a place of safety immediately). **This will NOT be broadcast on the campus BRG clock system.**

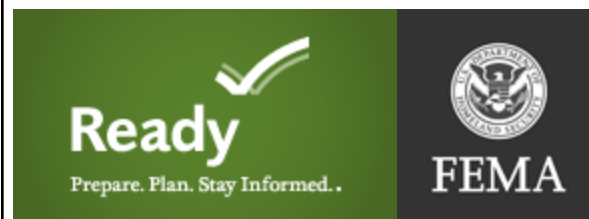
2:00 pm - END OF MOCK TORNADO WATCH/WARNING DRILL

If actual severe weather occurs anywhere in the state on April 18, the tornado drill will be postponed until Friday, April 19 with the watch/warning issued at the same time. Second, the drill will be a true, end-to-end test involving interruption of broadcast radio, TV and cable stations and tone-alerting of the test watch and warning on NOAA Weather Radios (also known as Emergency Weather Radios). This is an historic first in Wisconsin. The tornado warning at 1:45pm will last about one minute on radio and TV stations across Wisconsin. (The drill will also occur at the same time in Minnesota and will be broadcast on radio and TV stations in that state as well). When it is done stations will return to normal programming. Television viewers and radio station and emergency radio listeners will hear a message indicating that **"this is a test."**

This is a great opportunity for you to practice your tornado emergency plan with family, friends, and co-workers. Hundreds of schools will also participate in the drill. Then during tornado season, **Listen, Act and Live.** Don't ignore watches and warnings. Listen and take action. Every second counts. Don't wait... go to a safe place right away!



Tornadoes



Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Every state is at some risk from this hazard. Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while rain or nearby low-hanging clouds obscure others. Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that little, if any, advance warning is possible. Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still. A cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible. Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

Before a Tornado

To begin preparing, you should [build an emergency kit](#) and make a [family communications plan](#).

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or to commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information. In any emergency, always listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.
- Look for the following danger signs:
 - Dark, often greenish sky
 - Large hail
 - A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
 - Loud roar, similar to a freight train.
 - If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

<http://appshopper.com/weather/noaa-radio-free>



- ★ The Best Weather Radio for FREE!
★ NOAA Radio Free is Ad supported.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

UPGRADE to our paid version and get:

- 1) Over 100+ more cities with hourly forecasts
- 2) Marine Forecasts
- 3) Instant Customer Service
- 4) The Most Comprehensive Weather Radio

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Just Some of Our Top Features:

- ✓ AUTOMATIC Station Updates
- ✓ Huge Selection of NOAA Radio Stations
- ✓ 180+ Stations Being Broadcasted
- ✓ Background Playing Audio Support
- ✓ High-Res Retina Display Graphics
- ✓ Clean and Professional Design
- ✓ One Time Purchase for Life

Don't get caught without a weather radio. When severe weather strikes this information is priceless.

Disclaimer: This application should not be used in life or death situations. These streams can be delayed depending on network traffic and connection speed. In the event of a real emergency please use local TV stations or a local NOAA weather radio. Some city listings may use NOAA broadcasts that are from surrounding cities. Do not rely on the broadcasts from this application for life or death decisions.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards transmitters broadcast on one of seven VHF frequencies from 162.400 MHz to 162.550 MHz. The broadcasts cannot be heard on a simple AM/FM radio receiver. There are many receiver options, however, ranging from handheld portable units which just pick up Weather Radio broadcasts, to desktop and console models which receive Weather Radio as well as other broadcasts.

Where can you get them?

A quick online search shows that they can be gotten at many big box retailers as well as Radio Shack in Oshkosh. They can be purchased from dozens of online retailers as well.



These radios run between \$25—\$60.

Review the UW Oshkosh Emergency Procedures Guide

http://emergency.uwosh.edu/?page_id=36

When a tornado watch is issued:

- University Police send an email tornado watch notice on the University-wide employee email list.
- University Police call selected administrative offices that are responsible for passing information on to others in their area.
- Advise staff, students and visitors of the tornado watch.

Monitor weather conditions locally by observation or via a local radio station.


Tornado Warning

A tornado warning is issued when a tornado has been spotted and people in its path are in danger. **There will be no notice of a tornado warning from University Police.** Tornado Warnings are announced by the National Weather Service via radio and by local authorities via emergency service radios and Civil Defense warning sirens. These are the only notices of a warning you will receive.

When a tornado warning is issued:

- The emergency warning sirens will sound.
 - Do not pull the fire alarm for tornado warnings.
 - Do not evacuate occupants of buildings.
 - **Everyone should move from offices and classrooms to an interior hallway. If time permits, attempt to move to the lowest-possible level of the building.**
 - Take mobile phones, bottled water or soda with you, if available. Do not stop at vending machines to purchase these items while taking shelter.
 - Sit on the floor with your back to the interior wall.
 - Cover your head with your arms.
 - Stay as far away as possible from furniture, windows and exterior doors and exits.
- Remain in the building unless told to evacuate by police or fire personnel.

REMINDER to sign up for your Personal Health Assessment (PHA) on campus! The PHA is a tool that highlights how your lifestyle choices directly impact overall health. It provides personalized feedback, tips to improve your lifestyle habits, and resources for more information.



UW Oshkosh is working with ThedaCare At Work to provide PHAs to its employees. The data from these assessments will provide guidance to our wellness team for new initiatives on campus. They are confidential assessments and free to employees. UW Oshkosh is part of a community initiative called Well Oshkosh. The goal of Well Oshkosh is to engage the business community in improving the health and well-being of their workforce. Please copy and paste the below links for the process and registration information along with frequently asked questions.

<http://www.uwosh.edu/hr/benefits/PHAprocessandregistration.pdf>

<http://www.uwosh.edu/hr/benefits/PHAFAQ.pdf>

Please contact Jamie Schwister, schwistj@uwosh.edu or Sara K. Pritzl, pritzls@uwosh.edu for additional information or questions. Thank you!