



Manitowoc County Emergency Services

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For Immediate Release

Manitowoc County to Participate in the Statewide Tornado Drill with Siren Activations on April 15th, Encourages Residents to Prepare

Residents will have two opportunities to prepare for tornado and severe weather season by testing their emergency plans during statewide tornado drills on Thursday, April 15th. The drills are part of the annual Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week held April 12-16th to encourage everyone in Wisconsin to be ready for possible tornadoes and severe weather.

On April 15th, test tornado warnings will be issued at 1:45 PM and again at 6:45 PM. Manitowoc County will activate outdoor warning sirens at both of those times. When the sirens sound, individuals, families, schools, and businesses should practice moving to their designated shelter locations.

The best place to seek shelter during a tornado is in a windowless, interior room, on the lowest level of a sturdy structure, such as a basement. "The best way to ensure children and others in your family will remember where to seek shelter during a storm is to practice," said Travis Waack, Emergency Services Director. "This is a perfect opportunity to practice seeking shelter with severe weather just around the corner."

As a reminder, outdoor warning sirens are only designed to warn people outdoors and may not be heard inside your home or wake you during a tornado. Individuals, families, and businesses are encouraged to purchase a NOAA Weather Radio or use a phone app to get warnings indoors or be alerted during the night.

Sirens on E Hillcrest Rd east of Highway 42 and on Cherney Rd south of Fisherville Rd in northeast Manitowoc County will not be sounded for the drill as a courtesy to agricultural operations. These sirens would be sounded during an actual tornado warning and are regularly monitored to ensure they are in working order.

The National Weather Service will not be activating NOAA Weather Radios, Wireless Emergency Alerts on cell phones, or interrupting radio or television programming for the test tornado warning. These systems are regularly tested throughout the year.

If severe weather is expected in the state on Thursday, April 15th, the tornado drills will be postponed until Friday, April 16th, at the same times.