



Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

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Emergency Management Division

David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 11, 2011

April 11-15, 2011 is Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week Statewide Tornado Warning Drill is Thursday April 14, 2011

Milwaukee, WI – The State of Wisconsin has proclaimed April 11-15, 2011 as Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin. On Thursday, April 14, National Weather Service (NWS) will issue a “test” tornado watch at 1:00PM followed by a “test” tornado warning that will be issued between 1:20PM-1:25PM for Southeast Wisconsin. The Milwaukee County Outdoor Tornado Warning Sirens will be sounded at this time. There will be no “all clear” message issued by National Weather Service. If there is any threat of severe weather on April 14, the siren test will not be conducted.

TORNADO SAFETY TIPS AND FACTS

- A **TORNADO WATCH** means that conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms that may have the potential for the formation of tornadoes.
- A **TORNADO WARNING** means **take shelter immediately!** Stay away from windows, outside walls and doors and take cover to protect your head. Do not open windows. A tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted or has been detected by National Weather Service radar. During a tornado warning in Milwaukee County, the outdoor warning sirens will sound a steady tone blast for 3 minutes or longer. There is no “All Clear” signal given when a warning expires or is cancelled.

Listen to local radio or television for NWS weather bulletins, watches and warnings or use a Weather Alert Radio that will receive the broadcasts and alerts from the local National Weather Service Office. When a tornado threatens your area, immediately take action to seek shelter and do not leave until the storm has passed. If possible, take a portable radio and flashlight with you.

WHERE TO SEEK SHELTER FOR A TORNADO WARNING OR SEVERE WEATHER

Wisconsin’s tornado season runs from April through September, with the greatest numbers of tornadoes in May, June and July. A tornado may strike at any time, with little or no warning. During a tornado warning go to your basement to seek shelter or in a home with no basement go to the lowest floor to a central interior space (i.e., bathroom, hallway or closet) that is an enclosed, windowless area -- away from glass. Then, crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down; and cover your head to protect yourself.

For questions on the April 14, 2011 Tornado Warning Drill contact:
Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff, Emergency Management
Phone: 414-278-4709 or Email: mcsuem@milwcnty.com

For preparedness information visit Ready Wisconsin at < <http://ready.wi.gov/> >

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For more information about the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office,
visit our website at www.mksheriff.org.