



David A. Clarke Jr.  
Sheriff

# Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 16, 2012

### **Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Division Participates in Wisconsin Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week and Drill**

Milwaukee, WI – The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management is participating with the Wisconsin Emergency and National Weather Service on Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week – April 16 – 20.

Milwaukee County Emergency Management owns and operates 29 sirens; local municipalities own and maintain 28 sirens. Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. ordered an updated test of county-owned sirens last week. During the latest sound test it was discovered that the siren at Whitnall Park was inoperable and it is now being rebuilt. The Parks Department has been notified to alert the park's patrons manually in the event of a pending storm. One siren belonging to Oak Creek will sound, but does not rotate to alert the entire area.

Emergency Management conducts a silent test every morning at 2:30am of the siren radio and electronic capability. The monthly tests indicate any problems with rotation motors and sound amplifiers, like those found at Whitnall Park and in Oak Creek.

#### **Keep in mind that**

- Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually.
- In 2011, 38 tornadoes in Wisconsin were confirmed by the National Weather Service, the fourth highest number on record. The earliest occurred on April 10th. On August 19th, a man was killed when a tornado with winds of 105 mph struck Marinette County. Five others were injured in 2011.
- In 2010, 46 tornadoes in Wisconsin were confirmed by the National Weather Services, the second highest yearly number on record. No one was killed, but 22 were injured and tornadoes caused \$30 million in property damage.
- Peak tornado season in Wisconsin is April-August, but tornadoes can occur any time, like the January 2008 storms near Kenosha.

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For more information about the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office,  
visit our website at [www.mksheriff.org](http://www.mksheriff.org).

**On Thursday, April 19, 2012, the National Weather Service will issue a mock Tornado Watch at 1:00pm and at 1:45pm a statewide mock Tornado Warning. The Milwaukee County outdoor warning sirens will sound for three minutes. For the first time ever, all radio, TV and cable stations across Wisconsin will participate and NOAA Weather Radios (also known as Emergency Weather Radios) will be tested during the drill. This is an ideal opportunity for schools, businesses and individuals to practice procedures for severe weather safety.**

**Listening to warnings and seeking shelter immediately should not be ignored. Sheriff Clarke encourages people who use smart phones to upload an emergency weather app, like those available from local television station websites or online weather services.**

**Wisconsin Emergency Management and the National Weather Service have planned a series of efforts to promote storm safety:**

- **A statewide TV public service campaign with tornado survivors urging everyone to have an emergency weather radio.**
- **A statewide campaign urging everyone to “Listen, Act and Live!” When you hear a tornado warning, find shelter immediately.**
- **Ready Radio Days. ReadyWisconsin teams up with the National Weather Service to promote the use of emergency weather radios.**
- **ReadyWisconsin Trivia Challenge with emergency weather radios as a prize. Go to <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov> to enter.**

**For daily safety tips and information on Facebook and Twitter go to [www.facebook.com/readywisconsin](http://www.facebook.com/readywisconsin) or [www.twitter.com/readywisconsin](http://www.twitter.com/readywisconsin).**

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