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Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office **NEWS RELEASE**

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Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 21-25

Milwaukee, WI – Listen, Act and Live! Those words could protect you and your family during severe storm season. Listening to warnings and seeking shelter immediately will save lives.

Milwaukee County Emergency Management will sound the countywide Outdoor Warning Sirens on Thursday, April 24th at 1:45 p.m., in conjunction with a Wisconsin and Minnesota statewide Tornado Drills. The 2014 Tornado Drill will consist of a mock Tornado Watch and a mock Tornado Warning for both states.

Schedule for Thursday, April 24:

- 1:00 p.m. - The National Weather Service will issue a mock Tornado WATCH.
- 1:45 p.m. - The National Weather Service will issue a mock Tornado WARNING.
- 2:00 p.m. - End of drill.

The drill will occur even if the sky is cloudy, dark and/or rainy. If actual severe storms are expected in the state on Thursday, April 24, the drill will be postponed until Friday, April 25, at the same time. The drill will be cancelled if severe storms are possible on Friday.

Most local and state radio, TV and cable stations will be participating in the drill. Television viewers and radio station listeners will hear a message at 1:45 p.m. indicating that "This is a test."

NOAA weather radios will also be alarmed at both 1:00 and 1:45 p.m. for the WATCH and WARNING, respectively.

Use this as an opportunity to practice your tornado emergency plan with family, friends, and co-workers! Schools will also participate in the drill. Listen, Act and Live. Every second counts; do not wait, go to a safe place right away!

For more information, view ReadyWisconsin's URL at:
<http://readywisconsin.wi.gov/>

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For more information about the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, visit our website at www.mksheriff.org and our facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/MilwaukeeCountySheriff>
Follow us on Twitter @MCSOSheriff

Be Prepared!

Download the American Red Cross Tornado App on your smartphone. When the National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning, the app will sound a tornado siren alarm, even if the app is closed.

Severe weather facts, preparedness tips, and "I'M SAFE" messaging are also in this app. Did you know there have been over 300 tornadoes in SE Wisconsin in the last 50 years? Find out more and download this free Red Cross app!
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What do I do during a tornado?

- **Do not ignore watches and warnings!** Listen and take action.
- **If you hear an Outdoor Warning Siren** (or your smartphone's Tornado App) seek underground shelter, basement, or safe room immediately. Second-best shelter is a windowless interior room/hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building.
- **Mobile homes are NOT safe.** Abandon mobile homes and go to the nearest sturdy shelter.
- **If caught outdoors**, get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and drive at right angles away from the storm's path.
- **If driving**, and debris is flying, stop, keep your seat belt on, put your head below the windows and cover with a blanket.
- **If driving**, and you can safely get lower than the level of the roadway, exit your car, and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.

When will I hear the sirens?

The countywide Outdoor Warning Sirens will be activated when a TORNADO WARNING is issued by the National Weather Service. A steady warning tone for 3 minutes will be sounded.

A TORNADO WATCH alerts you that conditions exist for the possible formation of a tornado. A TORNADO WARNING alerts you that a tornado has been spotted, or weather radar indicates the formation of a tornado.

Note: the system is tested at Noon on the second Wednesday of each month (unless threatening weather conditions exist).

*For more information, check out NOAA's violent storm guide:
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/severeweather/resources/ttl6-10.pdf>*

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