STATE OF WISCONSIN

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DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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March 4, 2016

Wisconsin's Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week
April 11-15, 2016

(MADISON) – To give families a chance to test their emergency plans, a statewide tornado drill will be held during the evening of April 14, 2016. The drill is part of the annual spring severe weather campaign to encourage people in Wisconsin to get ready for possible tornadoes and severe weather.

Governor Walker has declared April 11-15, 2016 as Wisconsin's Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week. Wisconsin Emergency Management, the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association (WBA) have once again teamed up to sponsor the statewide tornado drill scheduled for Thursday, April 14.

For the first time, a mock tornado warning will be issued at 6:55 p.m. on Thursday, April 14 to give families and businesses a chance to test their emergency severe weather plans. Earlier in the day, a mock tornado watch will be issued at 1:00 p.m. and a mock tornado warning will be issued at 1:45 p.m. Many radio and TV stations across the state will issue the test tornado warnings. In addition, mock alerts will be issued on NOAA Weather Radios and many communities will sound their tornado sirens.

According to the NWS, Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually. Last year, there were 17 tornado touchdowns in the state. All of the tornadoes were either an EF0 or EF1. On August 19, 2015, two tornadoes touched down near Lake Geneva and Big Bend causing damage to area business. No one was injured.

The statewide tornado drill is a great opportunity for schools, businesses and families to test their emergency plans about what to do and where to go when severe weather strikes. The tornado drill will take place even if the sky is cloudy, dark and or rainy. If actual severe storms are expected in the state on Thursday, April 14, the tornado drills will be postponed until Friday, April 15 with the same times. If severe storms are possible Friday the drills will be cancelled.

Any changes will be issued to local media as well as posted on the ReadyWisconsin website at http://readywisconsin.wi.gov. Updates will also be posted on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin), Twitter (www.twitter.com/ReadyWisconsin) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/ReadyWisconsin).

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2016 Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Drills

Scheduled for Thursday April 14, 2016

The 2016 Tornado Drills will consist of a **mock tornado watch** and a **mock tornado warning** issued for all of Wisconsin. This is a great opportunity for your school, business and community to practice your emergency plans.

DRILL SCHEDULE:

1:00 p.m. – **National Weather Service issues a mock tornado watch** for all of Wisconsin (a watch means tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms).

1:45 p.m. - **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 safe place immediately).

2:00 p.m. – **End of 1:45 p.m. mock tornado warning drill**

6:55 p.m. – National Weather Service issues a mock tornado warning for all of Wisconsin.

The tornado drills will take place even if the sky is cloudy, dark and/or rainy. If actual severe storms are expected in the state on Thursday, April 14, the tornado drills will be postponed until Friday, April 15 with the same times. If severe storms are possible Friday, the drills will be cancelled. Any changes will be issued to local media as well as posted on the ReadyWisconsin website at http://readywisconsin.wi.gov. Updates will also be posted on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin), Twitter (www.twitter.com/ReadyWisconsin) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/ReadyWisconsin).

Many local and state radio, TV and cable stations will be participating in the drills. Television viewers and radio station listeners will hear a message at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. indicating that “This is a test.” The mock tornado warnings will last about one minute on radio and TV stations across Wisconsin and when the test is finished, stations will return to normal programming.

In addition, alerts for both the mock tornado watch and warnings will be issued over NOAA weather radios. Be sure your weather radio is turned on for this test. If the alarm on your weather radio does not go off for this test, check your weather radio's programming and quality of reception.

This is a great opportunity for you to practice your tornado emergency plan with family, friends, and co-workers. Schools will also participate in the drill. During storm season – follow this message: **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!

Frequently Asked Questions about the Tornado Test

How does the National Weather Service deliver these tornado tests and real tornado watches and warnings? They use a notification program called the Emergency Alert System or EAS.

What is the Emergency Alert System (EAS)? EAS is a national public alert and warning system that enables the President of the United States to address the American public during extreme emergencies. Alerting authorities like the National Weather Service can also use the state and local EAS to send alerts and warnings to radio and television stations, cable television, and NOAA weather radios (also known as emergency weather radios).

Why do these tests? The National Weather Service, Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association believe it is important to allow the public to test their NOAA weather radio receivers which can only be activated using a real tornado warning code. The code also triggers the alert to air on most broadcast radio, TV and cable stations. The goal of any drill is to test all electronic systems that alert Wisconsin citizens to impending severe weather that can result in the loss of life and property.

What can I expect to hear/see? The tests may look like a regular EAS test that most people are already familiar with, but there will be some differences in what viewers will see and hear. The audio message will repeat "This is a test." The video message scroll may not indicate "This is a test" due to programming limitations. The message will last for approximately one minute and then regular programming will resume.

Where will I hear/see the tests? On all participating radio, television, cable providers (who are called EAS Participants) and NOAA Weather Radios.

When will the tests occur? April 14 at 1:00 p.m. for the mock tornado watch, and at 1:45 p.m. for the mock tornado warnings. At 2:00 p.m., the tornado test will end. A second mock tornado warning will be issued at 6:55 p.m.

What else might happen? Many communities will activate their outdoor warning sirens for the tests at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.

What would cause the tests to be postponed or cancelled? The tornado drills will take place even if the sky is cloudy, dark and/or rainy, and even non-severe thunderstorms. We realize a cloudy, dark sky with rain may look threatening to some people. However, this is not a hazardous situation that results in a direct loss of life and/or property.

If actual severe storms are expected anywhere in Wisconsin on Thursday, April 14, the tornado drills will be postponed until Friday, April 15 at the same times. If severe storms are possible Friday, the drills will be cancelled. Severe weather is defined as tornadoes, damaging thunderstorm wind gusts of 58 mph or more, or large hail 1 inch in diameter or larger. Any changes will be issued to local media as well as posted on the ReadyWisconsin website at http://readywisconsin.wi.gov. Updates will also be posted on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin), Twitter (www.twitter.com/ReadyWisconsin) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/ReadyWisconsin).

Are any other states participating in this test? Yes, the drills will also occur at the same time in Minnesota and will be broadcast on radio and TV stations there as well.

Will the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) be activated in my cell phone? No, the drills will not activate an emergency notification on your cell phone. But during actual tornado warnings your phone will alert you to the danger in your area.

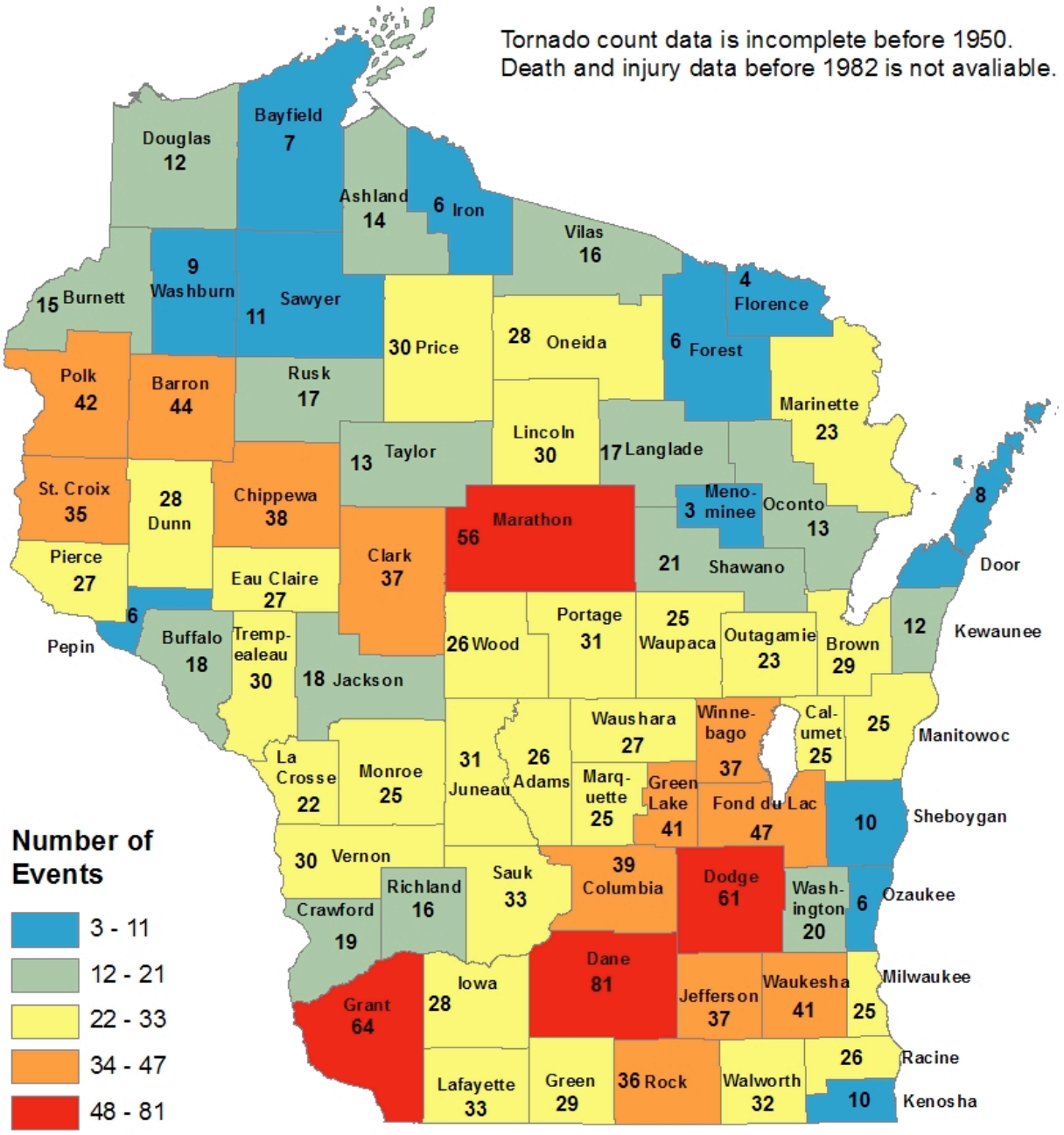
Tornado Safety at Home, Work, or at Play

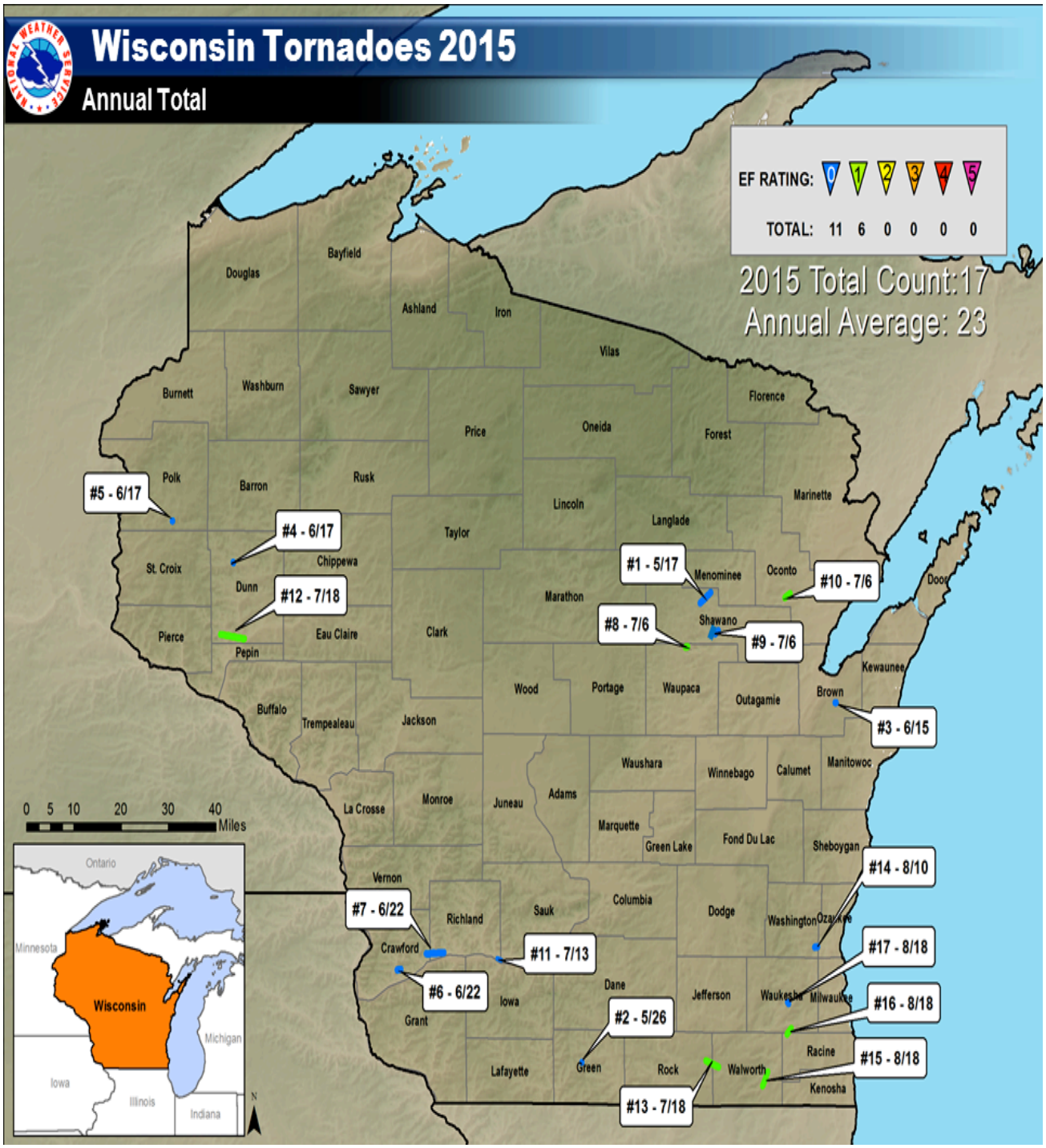
Listen, Act, and Live

- In a home or building, avoid windows. Move to a basement, and get under a sturdy table or the stairs. If a basement is not available, move to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and cover yourself with towels, blankets or pillows. If possible, get under a sturdy table, desk or counter. Put as many walls as possible between you and the storm. Wearing a bike helmet will help protect your head.
- If outdoors, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If you cannot get to shelter, stay in your vehicle with the seatbelt on and place your head below the windows. Do not seek shelter under an overpass.
- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes. You should leave a mobile home and go to the designated storm shelter or the lowest floor of a sturdy nearby building.
- At school, go to the interior hall or room. Crouch low, head down, and protect the back of your head with your arms. Stay away from windows and large open rooms like gyms and auditoriums.

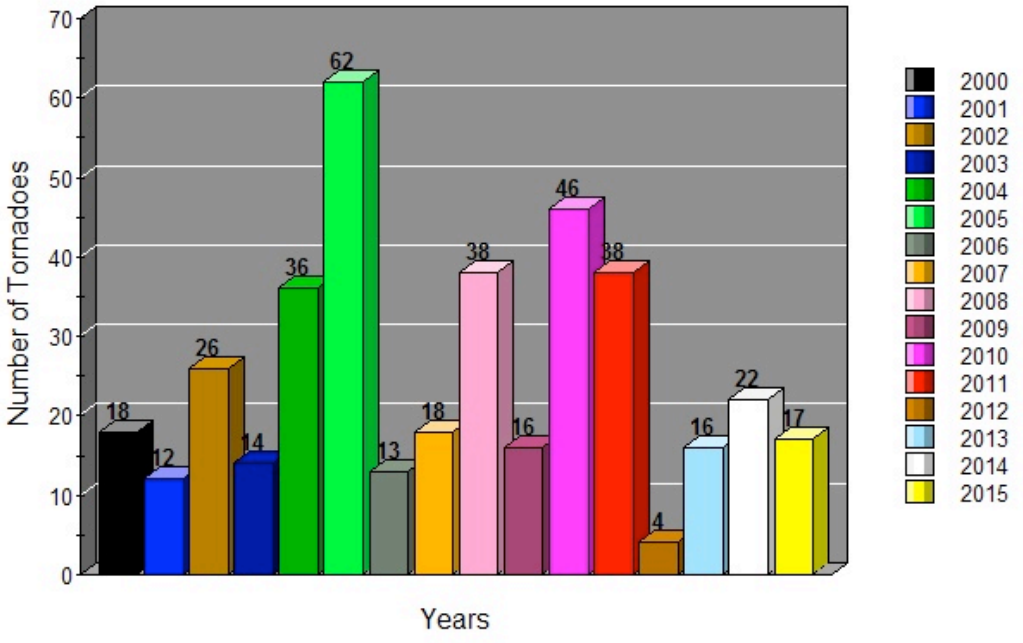
(June 17, 2014 – Governor Scott Walker tours damage left behind by an EF 3 tornado which hit Verona in Dane County. At least 30 homes were damaged as well as the Country View Elementary School.)

Wisconsin Tornado Events
1844 - 2015

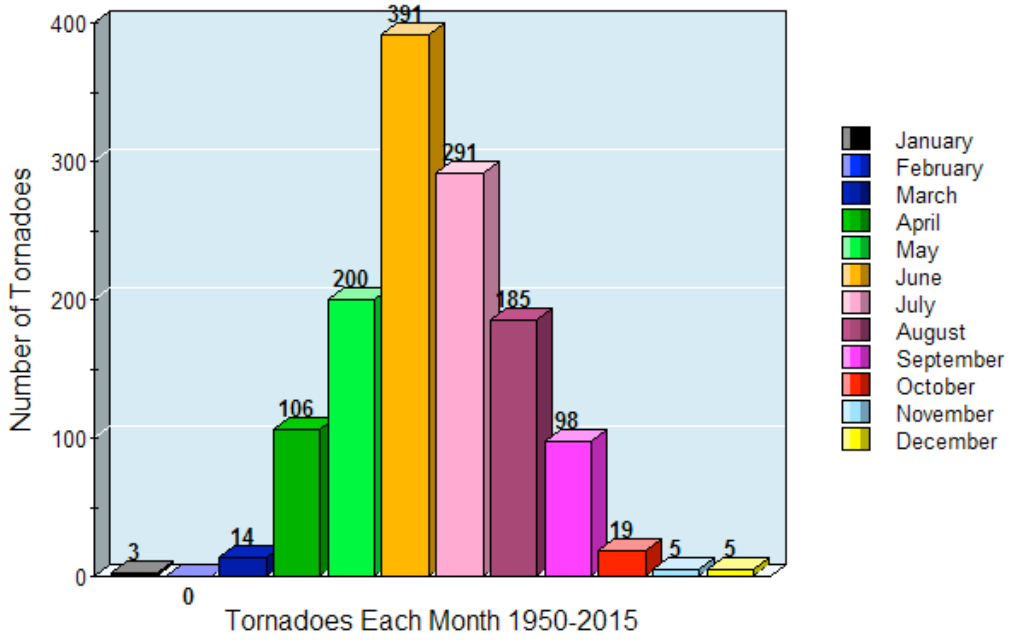



Wisconsin Tornadoes 2015
Annual Total
EF RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 5
TOTAL: 11 6 0 0 0 0
2015 Total Count:17
Annual Average: 23
Douglas
Bayfield
Ashland
Iron
Vilas
Burnett
Washburn
Sawyer
Florence
Price
Oneida
Forest
Polk
Barron
Rusk
Marinette
Lincoln
Langlade
Taylor
St. Croix
Chippewa
Dunn
Marathon
Menominee
Oconto
Door
Pierce
Pepin
Eau Claire
Clark
Shawano
Kewaunee
Wood
Portage
Waupaca
Outagamie
Brown
Buffalo
Trempealeau
Jackson
Waushara
Winnebago
Calumet
Manitowoc
La Crosse
Monroe
Juneau
Adams
Marquette
Green Lake
Fond Du Lac
Sheboygan
Vernon
Richland
Sauk
Columbia
Dodge
Washington
Ozaukee
Crawford
Dane
Jefferson
Waukesha
Milwaukee
Grant
Iowa
Racine
Lafayette
Green
Rock
Walworth
Kenosha
#5 - 6/17
#4 - 6/17
#12 - 7/18
#1 - 5/17
#10 - 7/6
#8 - 7/6
#9 - 7/6
#3 - 6/15
#14 - 8/10
#7 - 6/22
#11 - 7/13
#17 - 8/18
#6 - 6/22
#16 - 8/18
#2 - 5/26
#15 - 8/18
#13 - 7/18
0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles
Ontario
Minnesota
Wisconsin
Michigan
Iowa
Illinois
Indiana
N

Wisconsin Tornadoes Per Year



Wisconsin Tornadoes Per Month



Tornado Safety Before the Storm:

- Develop a plan for you and your family for home, work, school and outdoors. Know the safest shelter areas in multiple locations.
- Have frequent drills.
- Keep a disaster supply kit in your home including water, food that won't spoil and needs no heat to serve, first-aid kit, NOAA weather radio (also known as an emergency weather radio), a flashlight and special items for children, pets and elderly family members.
- Be sure your weather radio is working properly. Spring is a great time to install fresh batteries.

Tornado Watch: Severe thunderstorms with tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. Be prepared to move to safety if a **Warning** is issued. Know what counties are in the watch area by listening to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards or local radio or television stations.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Thunderstorms with large hail and damaging winds are possible. Be prepared to move to safety if a **Warning** is issued.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Move to a place of safety now!

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: A thunderstorm with large hail and damaging winds has been reported or indicated by weather radar.

Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm!

Additional maps and information are also posted at:
http://readywisconsin.wi.gov/tornado/sever_weather_statistics.asp

If you need further information, please contact your county or tribal emergency management director or Tod Pritchard at tod.pritchard@wisconsin.gov or 608-242-3324.

2016 Wisconsin Tornado / EAS PSA

Information furnished by Wisconsin Emergency Management
Contact: Tod Pritchard
Office: 608-242-3324
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Email: tod.pritchard@wisconsin.gov

(graphics on screen, Tornado Drill / April 14 / 1:45pm and 6:55pm with your logo.)

(:30)

On Thursday April 14th at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m., (your station) along with other TV and radio stations across Wisconsin will participate in the statewide Tornado Drills.

These tests will last for about one minute. When it is done stations will return to normal programming.

These Tornado Drills are an opportunity for you and your family to prepare for the upcoming tornado season and practice your emergency plan.

(two versions)

1- To learn more, go to (your station website)

2- To learn more, go to readywisconsin.wi.gov

(:15)

On Thursday April 14th at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55pm, TV and radio stations across Wisconsin will participate in statewide Tornado Drills. These tests will last for about one minute.

(two versions)

1- To learn more, go to (your station website)

2- To learn more, go to readywisconsin.wi.gov