

## Severe Weather Watches and Warnings

When conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop, the National Weather Service (NWS) will issue a WATCH. When a Watch is issued, make sure you have a source of weather information in the event storms begin to form.

When severe weather has formed, NWS meteorologists will issue a WARNING to immediately alert the public about the dangerous weather and to advise them to seek appropriate shelter.

Watches and Warnings are relayed to local radio and television stations and are broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio.

Public safety officials also get the Warnings and can activate local warning systems, like outdoor sirens, to alert communities.

**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 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 storm with large hail and damaging winds has been reported or indicated by weather radar. Seek shelter now.

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

## For More Information...

Check out these web sites for more safety tips, the latest weather forecast, and other weather awareness information.

### NOAA National Weather Service

<http://weather.gov>

*Click on your part of the state for local weather information*

### Find the NWS on Facebook

<http://facebook.com>

*Search for your NWS Office name*

### Follow the NWS on Twitter

<http://twitter.com>

*Search for your NWS Office name*

### For Kids: Be a Force of Nature!

<http://weather.gov/grb/prep>

### Tornado Preparedness Plan for Schools

<http://www.weather.gov/arx/schoolprep>

### Wisconsin Emergency Management

<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>

### ReadyWisconsin

Web - <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>

Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin>

Twitter - @ReadyWisconsin

Instagram - <http://www.instagram.com/ReadyWisconsin>

### FEMA for Kids

<http://www.ready.gov/kids>

### STEP (Student Tools for Emergency

Planning) <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov/STEP>



# Stay Informed with All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio

## The “Smoke Alarm” for Severe Weather

- NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) is a public warning system that broadcasts forecasts, warnings, and emergency information 24 hours a day.
- Radio receivers can quietly monitor these broadcasts and will alert when important and life threatening messages are issued for your area.
- “All Hazards” messages include:
  - ▶ Natural disasters (e.g., tornado, floods, blizzards)
  - ▶ Accidents (e.g., chemical release, train derailments, nuclear power emergencies)
  - ▶ Terrorist attacks
- **Please ensure they are used.** During an emergency, seconds count! These radios are a valuable alerting device, easy to use, and can also be used to check on every-day weather, including wind chill information during the winter. If your school doesn’t have a weather radio, make sure to purchase one before the severe weather season starts.
- Place your radio in areas that are constantly monitored (e.g., school office, principal’s office). Remember those occasions when the school is used for activities outside normal hours and make sure the radio can be monitored during those times.
- The radios are tested weekly. Make sure yours works!
- If you have any questions about weather radios, contact your local National Weather Service office.



### Related Web Sites

NOAA Weather Radio Home Page..... [www.weather.gov/nwr](http://www.weather.gov/nwr)  
NWR Coverage in Wisconsin..... [www.weather.gov/nwr/Maps/PHP/WI.php](http://www.weather.gov/nwr/Maps/PHP/WI.php)

## Wireless Emergency Alerts

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are weather and non-weather messages sent directly to cell phones in areas affected by an emergency. These short messages may look like text messages, but unlike texts which are sent directly to your phone number, they are broadcast to all phones within range of cell towers in the alerted area. The alerts will tell you the type of warning, the affected area and the duration of the event. Weather alerts sent as a WEA in Wisconsin include Tornado Warnings and Flash Flood Warnings.

For more information on WEA and a list of participating carriers, visit FEMA’s Wireless Emergency Alert web site: <http://fema.gov/wireless-emergency-alerts>