

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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**Racine County Observes Statewide Tornado Drill**

(RACINE) Racine County Emergency Management encourages all Racine County households, schools and businesses to participate in the statewide tornado drill on Thursday, April 20, 2017.

There will be two drills scheduled this year. A mock tornado watch will be issued at 1:00 p.m. followed by a statewide mock tornado warning 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. Later, a mock tornado warning will be issued at 6:45 p.m. to give families and second shift workers a chance to practice their emergency plans. The schedule for the tornado drill will be:

**1:00 pm – 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 pm - 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 place of safety immediately). There will be **no** all clear issued.

**6:45 pm - 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 place of safety immediately). There will be **no** all clear issued.

The mock tornado warnings will last about one minute on radio and TV stations across Wisconsin. When it is done stations will return to normal programming. Television viewers and radio station and emergency radio listeners will hear a message indicating that ***"this is a test."***

In Racine County, Outdoor Warning Sirens will be activated in those communities that have them. However, not all communities in Racine County have Outdoor Warning Sirens. In fact,



most do not. In addition, Outdoor Warning Sirens are not meant to be heard indoors. Although you may occasionally hear them indoors they were not designed for that purpose.

The Racine County Office of Emergency Management recommends that citizens obtain a NOAA Weather radio. NOAA Weather radios are far more cost effective and a reliable alternative to Outdoor Warning Sirens.

“Every person should know what to do when severe weather strikes,” commented Racine County Emergency Management Coordinator David Maack, “and every home, school and business should not only have a NOAA weather radio but should also consider the various free text alerts that are now available.”

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