



READY RACINE

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Racine County
Office
of
Emergency Management

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Mission

To assist the community in mitigating known hazards and in preparing for, responding to, surviving and recovering from both natural and man-made disasters.

BE READY FOR SPRING & SUMMER STORMS



June 8th marked the 35th anniversary of the Barneveld tornado. The F5 twister destroyed 90% of the town of 580 residents when it hit at 12:41 a.m. Nine people died and 200 were injured. What made this tornado unique was the timing—in the middle of the night. Most residents were sleeping and as a result, caught off guard.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually. However, in 2018 the NWS confirmed 33 tornadoes in the state. This included 19 tornadoes on Aug. 28th, the second largest August tornado outbreak in Wisconsin's weather history. One of those tornadoes near Brownsville in Dodge County was rated EF2 with winds near 125 mph - the strongest of the year.

Racine County has seen 26 tornadoes since 1844, the deadliest occurring on May 18, 1883 on the near northside of the city of Racine.

Tornadoes, nature's most devastating storm, are violently rotating columns of air which extend from thunderstorms and can destroy buildings, flip cars, and create deadly flying debris.

They can happen anytime and anywhere; bring intense winds, over 200 MPH; and look like funnels. In Wisconsin the peak tornado season in Wisconsin is April to August, but tornadoes can occur any time of year.



SUMMER STORMS CONT.

Tornadoes can also occur any time during the day or night, but are most frequent between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. About 80% of tornadoes that hit Wisconsin are relatively weak, with winds under 100 mph. Only 1% are violent with winds over 200 mph.

So what should you do when a Tornado Warning is issued? Whether at home, school or work, you should have a plan.

- ◆ Get a NOAA Weather Radio. Weather radios broadcast official National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When watches and warnings are issued, an alarm goes off.
- ◆ Sign up for email and cell phone text weather alerts. In addition, download the FEMA and Red Cross Smartphone apps. Both have notification features.
- ◆ Get a Kit. When preparing for a possible emergency, it's best to think first about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean

air and warmth.

- ◆ Have a plan. Designate shelter areas in the home and workplace.

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, or desk. Put as many walls as possible between you and the storm.

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.



VOSS HONORED FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Dave Voss was one of thirteen individuals honored at the Volunteer Center of Racine County's annual volunteer recognition awards ceremony on Friday, April 26th.

A Vietnam-era veteran who served in the US Navy submarine service, he was presented the award in the Veteran category for his volunteer service to the community, including his service as a Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator over the past 45 years and his work with the Racine

Community Outpost, which is responsible for the neighborhood COP houses. Dave is also an active Amateur Radio Operator.

After the floods of 2008 and 2009, Dave served as chairman of Racine County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) and chairman of Wisconsin Region IV Long Term Recovery Committee. He was also active with the state VOAD group. Dave is a retired Lieutenant with the Racine

Police Department and served as our Project Impact Director.



JUNE IS NATIONAL CAMPING MONTH: CAMPING SAFETY TIPS

There is nothing like getting away for a few days in the summer and camping is a fun, affordable family activity. Wisconsin boasts many state and local parks, and right here in Racine County, you can camp at two of our county parks—Cliffside and Sanders. With June being National Camping Month, now's the time to plan that upcoming camping trip.

But before you pack those bags, take the time to make sure you have the right gear and are prepared in case of emergency. Years ago, while camping with the family, a severe thunderstorm blew through the camp. This could have been a potentially dangerous situation, but we were prepared.

Here are some tips we picked up along the way:

- ◆ **Learn first aid and pack a first aid kit.**
- ◆ **Pack emergency supplies** such as a compass, flashlight, knife, waterproof fire starter, whistle, water-purifying tablets, insect repellent, sunscreen and a NOAA Weather All Hazard Radio.
- ◆ **Check the weather report** before you leave and keep an eye on current and predicted weather conditions.
- ◆ **Check for potential hazards** such as glass, sharp objects, branches, large ant beds, poison ivy, bees, and hazardous terrain.
- ◆ **Pick a level site** and pitch your tent in a safe spot. Keep your tent a safe distance from campfires.
- ◆ **Build fires in a safe area** and do not leave a fire unattended. Remember, Smokey the Bear says, "Only you can prevent forest fires!"
- ◆ **Keep your campsite clean and properly store your food** to ward off bears and other wildlife.
- ◆ **Keep it clean.** Wash your hands, particularly after using the toilet and before handling food to prevent the spread of germs and disease. Use biodegradable soap. Keep your campsite clean, too. And don't forget to remove all trash.
- ◆ **Use the buddy system** when going out hiking, swimming and biking.



OUTDOOR FOOD SAFETY

Whether your camping, grilling out or picnicking, handling food safely can be a challenge, especially in warm weather where food borne bacteria can be a challenge.

To protect yourself, your family and your friends from foodborne illnesses, it's important that you handle food properly. Here are some helpful tips that we have gleaned:

- ◆ Keep cold food cold. Cold food should be stored at 40 °F or below to prevent bacterial growth. Use ice or frozen gel packs and pack meat, poultry, and seafood while they are still frozen. Once at the picnic or camping site, limit how often you open the cooler.
- ◆ Don't cross-contaminate. Be sure to keep raw meat, poultry, and seafood securely wrapped. We like to double bag these items and if possible, store them in a separate cooler.
- ◆ Wash your hands and any surfaces used to prepare food. If you don't have access to running water, use a water jug, some soap, and paper towels. Or, consider using moist disposable towelettes for cleaning your hands. Take care to keep all utensils and platters clean when preparing food.
- ◆ Never reuse a plate or utensils that previously held raw meat, poultry, or seafood for serving — unless they've been washed first in hot, soapy water.
- ◆ Perishable food should not sit out for more than two hours. In hot weather (above 90 °F), food should NEVER sit out for more than one hour.



HOW DO YOU GET YOUR WEATHER ALERTS?

It seems as if a large part of the Midwest has been pounded with flooding, severe storms and tornadoes.

While we have come out of this volatile spring season relatively unscathed, it is a good reminder for all of us to be prepared—just in case! Take the time to make sure you can receive weather related alerts and warnings. Here are some things you can do:

- ◆ Confirm your mobile device can receive Wireless Emergency Alerts.
- ◆ Sign up for text and/or email alerts.
- ◆ Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio

All Hazards.

- ◆ Register your cell phone number with Code Red. Code Red is a county wide notification system, to notify you of emergency situations. You can find the link on our Facebook page.
- ◆ Download relevant hazard alerts and warnings apps like the FEMA and Red Cross App's.
- ◆ Create a list of all the alert systems available to you, and make sure everyone in the household receives the alerts as part of your household communication system.

WEATHER THE STORM DOWNLOAD THE FEMA APP



-  ALERTS
-  SAFETY TIPS
-  SHELTERS
-  PHOTOS

DISASTER SONG PLAYLIST

We are putting together a playlist of the best Disaster and Emergency related songs, and here are a few that we came up with!

- ◆ Black Smoke Rising (Greta Van Fleet)
- ◆ Blame it on the rain (Milli Vanilli)
- ◆ Eye of the Storm (Ryan Stevenson)
- ◆ Fight Fire With (Fire Kansas)
- ◆ Fire And Rain (James Taylor)
- ◆ Fire (Ohio Players)
- ◆ Lights (Journey)
- ◆ Message in a Bottle (Sting)
- ◆ Rainy Night In Georgia (Brooke Benton)
- ◆ Shake (Mercy Me)
- ◆ Sign o' the Times (Prince)
- ◆ Somebody's Watching Me (Rockwell)
- ◆ The Thunder Rolls (Garth Brooks)

- ◆ Thunder (Imagine Dragons)
- ◆ World Destruction (Afrika Bambaataa)

What's your favorite jam? Let us know and maybe we will add it to our list!



STAY INFORMED

There are a number of ways in which you can stay informed and involved with Racine County Emergency Management. In addition to our quarterly Ready Racine newsletters, you can learn more about RCOEM by:

- Visiting our website: <http://readyracineco.com>
- Download the Ready Badger App: <http://appfactoryuwp.com/projects.php>
- Visiting our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/readyracineco
- Submitting your questions and concerns to rcemergencymanagement@racinecounty.com
- Volunteering with Racine County Emergency Management

