



# READY RACINE

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Racine County  
Office  
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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.

## Summer Hazards

Summer means vacation, outdoor activities, and fun in the sun! It's a time when families hit the road to visit national parks or distant relatives.

The warm months and long days mean that there is plenty of time for baseball games and barbecues. The sultry temperatures practically invite you to take a dip in the pool or ocean.

But don't let the sunny days and warm nights fool you. Summer also holds significant weather and water hazards. Heat waves can be lengthy and deadly. Lightning deaths are at their peak during the summer. Beach hazards such as rip currents can catch the unprepared. And, in Wisconsin it is tornado season.

### BEAT THE HEAT

Heat waves are common across the country during the summer. They are dangerous because the human body cannot cool itself properly when exposed to an extreme combination of heat and humidity. Therefore it's important to take the proper precautions.

- Limit strenuous outdoor activities, find shade and stay hydrated
- Never leave children or pets unattended in a vehicle-check before you lock
- Check in on family, friends and neighbors, especially those who are older, sick or do not have air conditioning

### LIGHTNING

Lightning strikes the United States about 25 million times a year. Although most lightning occurs in the summer, people can be struck at any time of year. Light-

ning kills an average of 49 people in the United States each year, and hundreds more are severely injured.

### WHEN THUNDER ROARS-GO INDOORS

Did you know that lightning bolts can jump 10 or more miles from their parent cloud into regions with blue skies? Therefore, go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before



hearing thunder. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder. The **30/30 Rule** says to shut down when lightning is six miles away. Use a "flash to bang" (lightning to thunder) count of five seconds equals one mile (10 = 2 miles; 20 = 4 miles; 30 = 6 miles).

### RIP TIDES

We have a world class beach in Racine but that big lake can be deadly if you don't take the proper precautions. Only swim at a beach with lifeguards. The chances of drowning at a beach with lifeguards are 1 in 18 million. Rip currents are powerful currents of water flowing away from shore that quickly pull swimmers out. The best way to stay safe is to recognize the danger of rip currents. **If caught in one, don't fight it!** Swim parallel to the shore and swim back to land at an angle. And always remember to swim at beaches with lifeguards.

Have fun but play it safe this summer!

# Lake Bluff Erosion Impacts Racine County

Portions of Racine County, along the shores of Lake Michigan, have been hit hard with bluff erosion issues. Lake bank erosion is caused by a variety of natural factors including high lake levels and winds that cause waves to damage the shoreline. One house in Mt. Pleasant has already had to be removed and some residents have lost 50 feet or more of bluff.

Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave issued a declaration of emergency in Racine County due to the severe bluff erosion in the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant.

Although the shoreline of Lake Michigan is not under the jurisdiction of Racine County, the declaration is one way to support the municipalities in raising awareness and finding an expeditious solution.

An emergency declaration positions Racine County to ask for state and federal assistance, if the situation warrants. In addition, the County Executive has the authority to make county personnel and resources available.



On June 7th, Wisconsin Emergency Management facilitated a Lake Bluff Erosion Technical Assistance Community Meeting in Mount Pleasant.

Over a 100 people from Racine, Kenosha and Ozaukee counties attended and subject matter experts were on hand to answer questions for affected homeowners.

While there is no easy solution to this problem, it has caught the attention of both Governor Scott Walker and House Speaker Paul Ryan.

Gov. Scott Walker has requested federal assistance for the Village of Mount Pleasant to control severe bluff erosion along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Walker requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "to identify this project as a priority for funding." Not only are homes in danger but village roads and utilities, are also in immediate danger of succumbing to bluff failure.

# Weather Related Fatalities

According to the National Weather Service, weather-related deaths rose from 333 in 2014 to 517 in 2015.

Flooding replaced rip currents as the most deadly hazard in 2015, claiming 176 victims, up significantly from 38 deaths in 2014. Rip Currents were still a major threat, claiming 56 lives, down only 1, from 57 in 2014.

Thunderstorm winds and high winds were the next most deadly weather events, claiming 65 lives, up from 54 in 2014, followed by extreme cold with 53 and extreme heat, with 45.

Which were the deadliest months in 2015? For a second year in a row, it was not the typical summer months, but May with 85 victims and Decem-

ber with 76. Tornadoes caused by the far the most injuries with 924, heat causing 640, and thunderstorm and high winds causing 221 injuries. Any way you look

at it, weather related storms are deadly so its important to take the proper precautions. For more information on severe weather, check out our webpage at [www.readyracineco.com](http://www.readyracineco.com).

**Practice HEAT SAFETY Wherever You Are**

Heat related deaths are preventable. Protect yourself and others from the impacts of heat waves.

- Job Sites:** Stay hydrated and take breaks in the shade as often as possible.
- Indoors:** Check up on the elderly, sick and those without AC.
- Vehicles:** Never leave kids or pets unattended - LOOK before you LOCK.
- Outdoors:** Limit strenuous outdoor activities, find shade, and stay hydrated.

NOAA [weather.gov/heat](http://weather.gov/heat)

## Racine County Medical Reserve Corps

Summer is upon us, and that means the Racine County Medical Reserve Corps (RCMRC) is gearing up for its 2016 season. These events are just some of the ways that RCMRC gives back to the Racine community and beyond.

For the fourth straight year, RCMRC provided first aid services at The Racine Color Run 5K along the lakefront. This year's event took place on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Medical Reserve Corps members also assisted with Relay for Life Racine at the Caledonia / Mount Pleasant Memorial Park in Franksville and the Red Power Round Up, a national tractor convention which took place at the Racine County Fairgrounds.

From June 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, members participated in an emergency preparedness exercise called *Miles Paratus* at Volk Field in Northern Wisconsin. The Wisconsin National Guard and the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs Division of Emergency Management (WEM) coordinated and conducted the exercise, aiming to

fulfill part of its unique dual mission as the first military responder when disaster strikes here at home. The five-day emergency response exercise, involving approximately 2,500 military and civilian personnel, focused on inter-agency efforts to plan, train, and respond cohesively across the state. The event brought more than 50 civilian local, state, and national emergency response agencies as well as private sector organizations together.

Finally, a number of members are also scheduled to assist with first aid during the EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh on July 20.

The Racine County Medical Reserve Corps is always searching for additional members, and is open to those with both medical and non-medical backgrounds. The main

functions are preparing for public health emergency response, recovery operations, and the expansion of public health activities into our communities through events such as those above.

For more information about the Racine County Medical Reserve Corps or if interested in joining and assisting with or participating in these events, visit [www.cityofracine.org/Health/MRC](http://www.cityofracine.org/Health/MRC), email [PublicHealth@CityofRacine.org](mailto:PublicHealth@CityofRacine.org), or call the City of Racine Public Health Department at 262-636-9537.



## Disaster Songs

Readers of this newsletter know that we have been compiling songs to “crank” in the Emergency Operations Center. Well we’ve added some new songs to our “disaster/emergency” playlist. They include:

- Who'll Stop The Rain by CCR
- Thunder and Lightning by Chi Coltrane
- The Arson's Match by Peter Karp
- Texas Flood by Buddy Guy
- Whole Lotta Shakin Goin On by Jerry Lee Lewis
- Burning House by Cam
- Wheel in the Sky by Journey
- Danger Zone by Kenny Loggins
- Great balls of fire - Jerry Lee Lewis
- Disco Inferno – Trammps
- Avalanche by Nick Jonas
- Here Comes The Flood by Peter Gabriel
- Hurricane by Bob Dylan
- Landslide by Fleetwood Mac
- Mud Slide Slim by James Taylor
- Volcano by U2

- Its raining men by The Weather Girls
- The Eye of Every Storm by Neurosis

What's on your playlist? Let us know!



## Racine County Launches Fresh Brand And New Website

Racine County has launched a fresh new brand, which includes a stylish logo, new County colors, and an updated, user-friendly website [www.racinecounty.com](http://www.racinecounty.com).

The new logo for Racine County is in the new County colors, blue and gold, and has a distinct swoop of forward-leaning boxes. Racine County's new website –

[www.racinecounty.com](http://www.racinecounty.com) – is up and available to the public. With a fresh look, vastly improved navigation, and new interactive tools, the website is mobile-friendly and contains content that is easy to access and understand.

The Racine County Emergency Manage-

ment webpage has also been redesigned. You can still go to [www.readyracineco.com](http://www.readyracineco.com) to access the new Emergency Management website.



## Southeast Emergency Managers Launch Ready Badger

Southeast WI Emergency Management Directors recently visited the UW Parkside APP Factory for a briefing on the new Ready Badger app.

ReadyBadger is the latest app developed by UW-Parkside's Computer Science students, who worked in conjunction with Southeast Wisconsin County Emergency Management representatives.

The app will allow anyone in the state of Wisconsin to find emergency preparedness information specific to a particular county.

It also allows for the user to submit a digital damage report in an effort to increase the speed with which County emergency managers can assess damages and respond to disasters.

The ReadyBadger mobile application can be downloaded for free in the Apple App Store and Android Google Play Store.

The UW-Parkside App Factory is a creative, professional, interdisciplinary group on campus that develops mobile apps for community clients throughout southeastern Wisconsin.

They provide conceptual design and prototype mobile app development services to help find solutions and strategies for technology challenges.

Students gain real world experience working with clients and working on live projects as part of internships or course credit.



## 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://www.readyracineco.com>
- Signing up for email communications by entering your information on our website
- Visiting our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/readyracineco](http://www.facebook.com/readyracineco)
- Submitting your questions and concerns to [rcemergencymanagement@racinecounty.com](mailto:rcemergencymanagement@racinecounty.com)
- Volunteering with Racine County Emergency Management

