



# READY RACINE



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Racine County  
Office  
of  
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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.

## Tornado Awareness Week

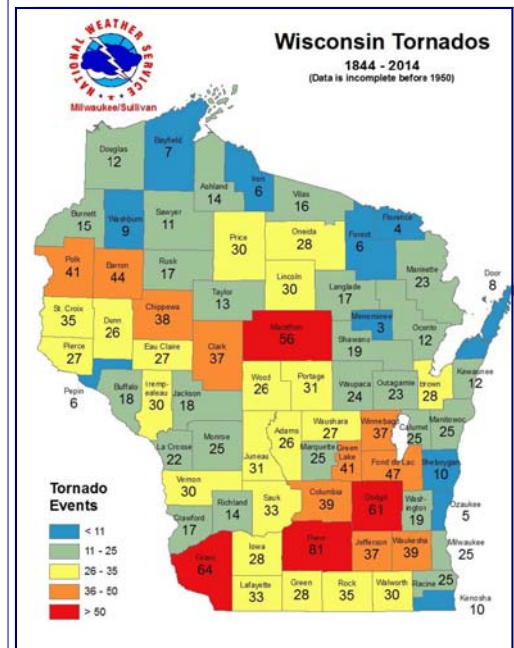
**Listen, Act and Live!** Those words could protect you and your family during severe storm season. Listening to warnings and seeking shelter immediately will save lives. That's why Racine County is observing Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week April 13-17, 2015.

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. While we do not live in tornado alley, Wisconsin/Racine is not immune from tornadoes.

### Did you know that...

- Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually and that Racine County has recorded 25 tornadoes since 1844
- The May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1883 tornado which hit the north side of the City of Racine is one of Wisconsin's Top Ten Killer Tornadoes? This tornado struck just blocks from Lake Michigan, killing 25 people and injuring over 100.
- In 2014, 22 tornadoes were reported in Wisconsin by the National Weather Service. Eighteen of those tornadoes occurred in June. The strongest tornado in 2014 occurred on June 17 when an EF 3 tornado hit Verona in Dane County. At least 30 homes were damaged as well as the Country View Elementary School.
- In 2010, three tornadoes struck Racine County.
- The peak tornado season in Wisconsin is April to August, but tornadoes can occur any time of year, like the

January 7, 2008 tornadoes which struck Kenosha County.



### Statewide Tornado Drill

On Thursday, April 16, 2015, a statewide tornado drill is planned. At 1:00pm, the National Weather Service will issue a statewide mock tornado watch and at 1:45pm a statewide mock tornado warning.

Many radio and TV stations will participate in the drill. In addition, NOAA weather radios (also known as emergency weather radios) will issue alert messaging. This is an ideal opportunity for schools, businesses and families to practice safe procedures for severe weather.

Advanced warning saves lives, but we need to act on the warning. When warnings are issued, immediately go to a safe place.

## Creating a Culture of Preparedness

LT. General Russel L. Honoré, US Army (Ret), recently spoke at the Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Emergency Management.

General Honoré was widely hailed by the media as the "Category 5 General" who led Task Force Katrina in the aftermath of the devastating hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast in the summer of 2005.

After more than 37 years of uniformed service to the U.S. Army and our nation, he is spending the second half of his life committed to a new mission: Creating a "Culture of Preparedness" in America.

Honoré asked the audience made up of emergency responders, "How many have an evacuation plan for families? How many have 3-5 days supply of food and water? How many have a NOAA Weather Radio?" Sadly fewer hands went up than one

would expect considering the makeup of the audience.



According to Honoré, only about 15% of Americans do any serious emergency planning at home.

During his talk General Honoré urged attendees to invest in preparation, starting with making first aid and pandemic prevention and response required courses on a high school and college level.

He also stated that we need genera-

tors in drugstores in each geographical area (if power is lost, people can still get medicine) and gas stations along all interstate highways.

General Honoré closed his remarks talking about leadership. "Leadership requires sacrifice..it's not about popularity, it's about getting the job done!"

He then offered up three tips: 1. Practice doing routine things well. 2. Be prepared to do the impossible. 3. Don't be afraid to act even if you're criticized.



## More Emergency Management Songs

**Last year we featured songs which followed the theme of crisis or emergency management. Here are some more songs you can "crank" when facing your next crisis!**

- Radioactive by Imagine Dragons
- Safety Dance by Men Without Hats
- Heat Wave by Linda Ronstadt
- Pick Up The Pieces by The Average White Band
- When The Levee Breaks by Led Zep-pelin
- Texas Flood by Stevie Ray Vaughn
- In From The Storm by Jimi Hendrix
- Shelter From The Storm by Bob Dylan
- Here Comes The Flood by Peter Gabriel
- I Wish It Would Rain by Phil Collins
- Here Comes The Rain Again by the Eurythmics
- Burning Down The House by Talk-ing Heads
- Only Happy When It Rains by Gar-bage
- Have You Ever Seen The Rain by CCR
- Ring Of Fire by Johnny Cash
- Fire And Rain by James Taylor
- It's Raining by Irma Thomas



## Racine County Medical Reserve Corps

The Racine County Medical Reserve Corps (RCMRC) is gearing up for its 2015 season.

- Unit members will be assisting with the bi-annual Racine County Medication Collection Event to be held on April 18 from 8:00am – 1:00pm at 6200 21<sup>st</sup> Street in Racine.
- For the third straight year, RCMRC will be providing first aid services at The Racine Color Run 5K along the lakefront at Pershing Park on May 23, starting at 7:00am.
- RCMRC will be participating in a full-scale exercise in Merrill, WI from May 29-31. This exercise, with other MRC Units from across the state, is intended to

practice the set-up, use, and takedown of a portable medical tent while triaging volunteer patients.



- Members are working on the facilitation of the Moving Wall, a ½-scale replica of the Vietnam War Memorial located in Washington, D.C. The Moving Wall will be in Racine at Pritchard Park from August 28-30.

RCMRC is open to both medical and

non-medical members. The main functions are preparing for public health emergency response, recovery operations, and the expansion of public health activities into our communities.

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/MRC.aspx](http://www.cityofracine.org/MRC.aspx) or call the City of Racine Public Health Department at 262-636-9537.



## Keeping Your Emergency Kit Nutritious

When gathering food for an emergency kit, we often think about items that do not require cooking or refrigeration and have a long storage life. Yet, we often forget to check the nutritional value of the food in our emergency kits.

As you do your “spring” cleaning, take the time to review the food in your emergency kit and make sure it is healthy and not expired. Here are a few healthy tips from the CDC to keep in mind when gathering food for your emergency kit and.

1. **Avoid Salty Snacks** - Salty snacks make you thirsty and increase your need to drink water.
2. **Include Protein** - Nuts, protein bars and peanut butter can be

sustaining foods that can help keep you full and are easy to store in your emergency kit.

3. **Look for High-Energy Foods** - Choose foods like nuts, dried meat, whole grains (crackers, cereal, etc.) and canned beans, fruits, or vegetables to help keep your energy up.
4. **Don't Forget Water** - Store at least 1 gallon of water per day for each person and each pet. If possible, try to store a 2-week supply of water or at least a 3-day supply of water for each person in your family.
5. **Make Sure Your Emergency Kit Food is Healthy and Safe** - Regularly review the content of your kit to make sure none of your food has expired or become

dented or damaged. Keep the food in a dry, cool spot, out of the sun.

6. **Stick With What You Know** - Choose foods you know how to prepare and will want to eat. Don't forget about food allergies or dietary needs of your loved ones and consider how you will meet everyone's unique nutritional needs if you can only access your emergency kit food supply.

For more information about choosing and storing food for your emergency kit, visit CDC's webpage <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/index.asp>.

## Communicating with People with Functional Needs

1. When talking with a person with a disability, speak directly to that person rather than through a companion or sign language interpreter.
2. When introduced, it is appropriate to offer to shake hands. People with limited hand use or who wear an artificial limb can usually shake hands. (Shaking hands with the left hand is an acceptable greeting.)
3. When meeting a person who is visually impaired, always identify yourself and others who may be with you. When conversing in a group, remember to identify the person to whom you are speaking.
4. If you offer assistance, wait until the offer is accepted. Then listen to or ask for instructions.
5. Treat adults as adults. Address people who have disabilities by their first names only when extending the same familiarity to all others.
6. Leaning on or hanging on to a person's wheelchair is similar to leaning on hanging on to a person and is generally considered annoying. The chair is part of the personal body space of the person who uses it.
7. Listen attentively when you're talking with a person who has difficulty speaking. Be patient and wait for the person to finish, rather than correcting or speaking for the person.
8. When speaking with a person who uses a wheelchair or a person who uses crutches, place yourself at eye level in front of the person to facilitate the conversation.
9. To get the attention of a person who is deaf, tap the person on the shoulder or wave your hand. Look directly at the person and speak clearly, slowly, and expressively to determine if the person can read your lips. Not all people who are deaf can read lips.
10. Relax. Don't be embarrassed if you happen to use accepted, common expressions such as "See you later," or "Did you hear about that?" that seems to relate to a person's disability. Don't be afraid to ask questions when you're unsure of what to do.

*Source: [Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\)](#)*

## Tornado Awareness Week cont.

### Tornado Safety At Home, Work & Play



- 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.

Finally, 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.





## Odds and Ends

### DO 1 THING

We like to pass along information and programs that could benefit you and recently we learned about the “Do 1 Thing” initiative. Do 1 Thing is an exciting web-based preparedness program which focuses on different areas of preparedness each month in a way that is inexpensive, easy, and fun for the whole family. The Do 1 Thing mission is to move individuals, families, businesses and communities to prepare for all hazards and become disaster resilient. To get started, click the topic for the current month, select an activity from the list of “Things to do,” and do that one thing! After following along for an entire year, you’ll be better prepared for disasters and emergencies. For more information, go to <http://do1thing.com/>

### TOP 5 GERMIEST PLACES IN THE OFFICE

The flu bug hit hard this year but there are steps you can take to prevent the flu from hitting you. Experts suggest that frequent hand washing, using hand sanitizer and keeping your hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth can help prevent the flu. You might also consider cleaning the “germiest” places in your office also.

OpenWorks, a facility services and commercial cleaning company, has crafted a list of the 'germiest' places in the home and office to help working adults keep their families (and themselves) safe this flu season. According to OpenWorks, germs thrive on the human touch and the average adult brings their fingers to the nose, mouth or eyes about 16 times per hour.

So here’s their list of the top 5



'germiest' places in the office:

1. Keyboards and mice
2. Phones
3. Kitchen areas and break rooms
4. Refrigerator, microwave and water fountain handles and door knobs
5. Community-used sinks

### RACINE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Each county is required to have a community-level, multi-disciplinary Traffic Safety Commission. The Commission is made up of a designated law enforcement officer, highway safety coordinator and highway commissioner, along with community representatives.

One program which is unique to the Racine County Traffic Commission is the monthly Staying Safe program, a partnership with the Journal Times and WRJN. The JT designs and produces a monthly safety poster and representatives from the commission participate on WRJN’s “Community Conversations” program the third Friday of each month.

The focus in April is Distracted Driving. All posters are archived at [www.readyracineco.com/news](http://www.readyracineco.com/news)



## 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@goracine.org](mailto:rcemergencymanagement@goracine.org)
- Volunteering with Racine County Emergency Management

