2019 Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Drills

Scheduled for Thursday April 11, 2019

The 2019 Tornado Drills will consist of a **mock tornado watch** and **mock tornado warnings** issued for all of Wisconsin. This is a great opportunity for your school, business and community to practice your emergency plans.

DRILL SCHEDULE:

1:00 p.m. – **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 p.m. - **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 safe place immediately).

2:00 p.m. – **End of 1:45 p.m. mock tornado warning drill**

6:45 p.m. – National Weather Service issues a mock tornado warning for all of Wisconsin.

7:00 p.m. – End of 6:45 p.m. mock tornado warning drill

The tornado drills will take place even if the sky is cloudy, dark and/or rainy. If actual severe storms are expected in the state Thursday, April 11, the tornado drills will be postponed until Friday, April 12, with the same times. If severe storms are possible Friday, the drills will be cancelled. Any changes will be issued to local media as well as posted on the ReadyWisconsin website at http://readywisconsin.wi.gov. Updates will also be posted on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin), Twitter (www.twitter.com/ReadyWisconsin) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/ReadyWisconsin).

This is a great opportunity for you to practice your tornado emergency plan with family, friends, and co-workers. Schools will also participate in the drill. During storm season – follow this message: Listen, Act and Live. Don't ignore watches and warnings. Listen and take action. Every second counts. Don't wait… go to a safe place right away!

Many local radio, TV and cable stations will be participating in the drills. Television viewers and radio station listeners will hear a message at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. indicating that "This is a test." The mock tornado warnings will last about one minute on radio and TV stations across Wisconsin and when the test is finished, stations will return to normal programming.

In addition, alerts for both the mock tornado watch and warnings will be issued over NOAA weather radios. Be sure your weather radio is turned on for this test. If the alarm on your weather radio does not go off for this test, check your weather radio's programming and quality of reception.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Tornado Test

How does the National Weather Service deliver these tornado tests and real tornado watches and warnings? They use a notification program called the Emergency Alert System or EAS.

What is the Emergency Alert System (EAS)? EAS is a national public alert and warning system that enables the President of the United States to address the American public during extreme emergencies. Alerting authorities like the National Weather Service can also use the state and local EAS to send alerts and warnings to radio and television stations, cable television, and NOAA weather radios (also known as emergency weather radios).

Why do these tests? The National Weather Service, Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association believe it is important to allow the public to test their NOAA weather radio receivers which can only be activated using a real tornado warning code. The code also triggers the alert to air on most broadcast radio, TV and cable stations. The goal of any drill is to test all electronic systems that alert Wisconsin citizens to impending severe weather that can result in the loss of life and property.

What can I expect to hear/see? The tests may look like a regular EAS test that most people are already familiar with, but there will be some differences in what viewers will see and hear. The audio message will repeat "This is a test." The video message scroll may not indicate "This is a test" due to programming limitations. The message will last for approximately one minute and then regular programming will resume.

Where will I hear/see the tests? On all participating radio, television, cable providers (who are called EAS Participants) and NOAA Weather Radios. The drills will not activate an emergency notification on your cell phone. During actual tornado warnings your phone will alert you to the danger in your area.

When will the tests occur? A mock tornado watch will be issued on April 11 at 1 p.m., and at 1:45 p.m. there will be a mock tornado warning. At 2 p.m., the tornado test will end. A second mock tornado warning will be issued at 6:45 p.m. This test will end at 7 p.m.

What else might happen? Many communities will activate their outdoor warning sirens for the tests at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

What would cause the tests to be postponed or cancelled? The tornado drills will take place even if the sky is cloudy, dark and/or rainy, and if there are non-severe thunderstorms. We realize a cloudy, dark sky with rain may look threatening to some people. However, this is not a hazardous situation that results in a direct loss of life and/or property.

If actual severe storms are expected anywhere in Wisconsin Thursday, April 11, the tornado drills will be postponed until Friday, April 12 at the same times. If severe storms are possible Friday, the drills will be cancelled. Severe weather is defined as tornadoes, damaging thunderstorm wind gusts of 58 mph or more, or large hail 1 inch in diameter or larger. Any changes will be issued to local media as well as posted on the ReadyWisconsin website at http://readywisconsin.wi.gov. Updates will also be posted on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin), Twitter (www.twitter.com/ReadyWisconsin) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/ReadyWisconsin).

Are any other states participating in this test? Yes, the drills will also occur at the same time in Minnesota and will be broadcast on radio and TV stations there as well.

Tornado Safety at Home, Work, or at Play

Listen, Act, and Live

- 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.

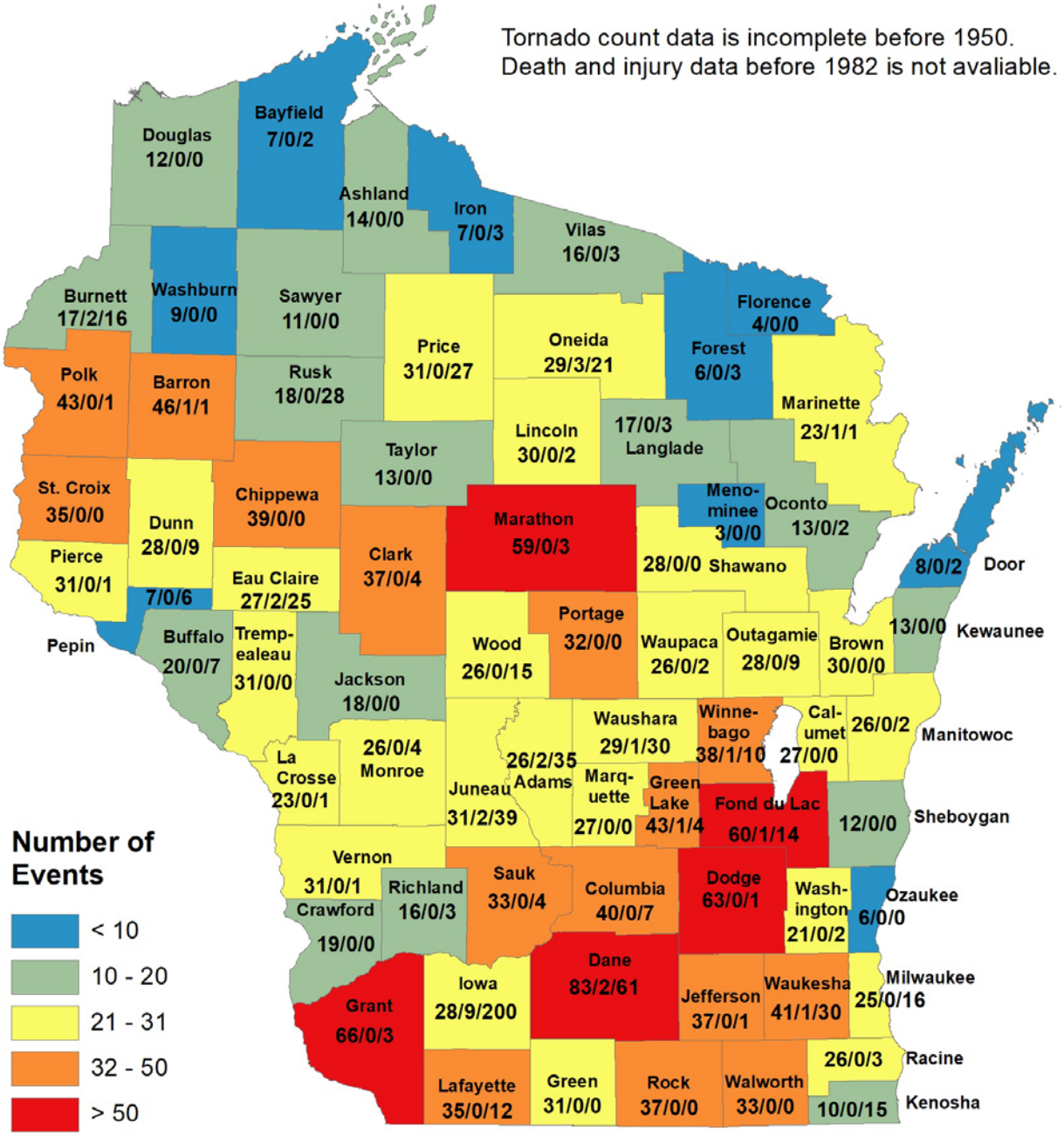
(Debris fills the site of a mobile home park near Chetek in Barron County, which was hit by an EF3 tornado that traveled along an 83-mile long path through four counties on May 16, 2017. One person was killed.)

Wisconsin Tornado Events

1844 - 2018

Events / # Deaths / # Injuries

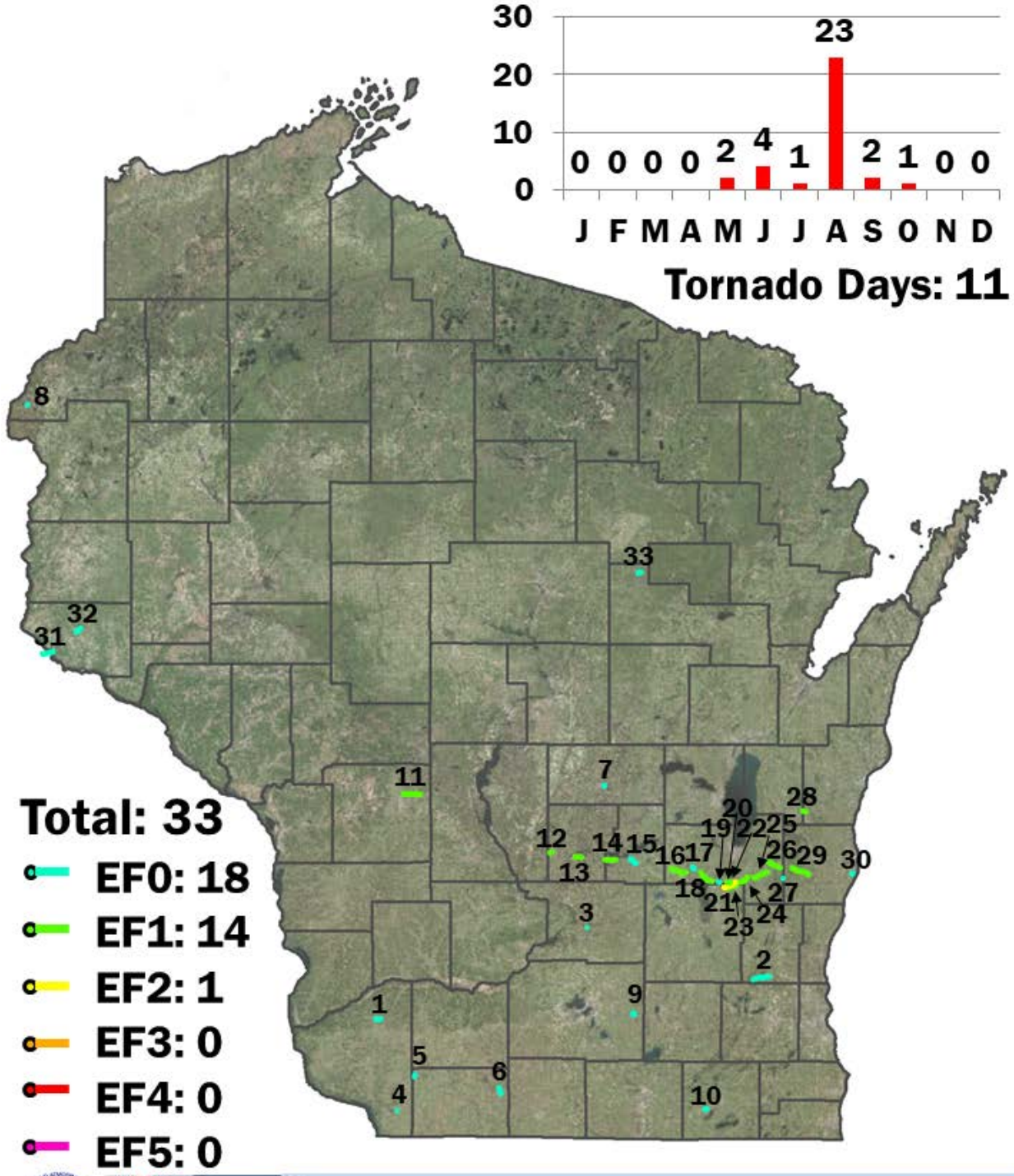
Tornado count data is incomplete before 1950.
Death and injury data before 1982 is not avaliable.



Wisconsin Tornadoes 2018

#	Date	County	Location	Mag	Length	Width	Death/Inj
1	5/9	Grant	Fennimore	EF0	1.55mi	70yd	0/0
2	5/9	Washington	Richfield	EF0	5.27mi	50yd	0/0
3	6/16	Columbia	Poynette	EF0	0.1mi	50yd	0/0
4	6/26	Grant	Georgetown	EF0	0.1mi	10yd	0/0
5	6/26	Lafayette	Rewey	EF0	0.5mi	40yd	0/0
6	6/26	Lafayette	Argyle	EF0	1.8mi	47yd	0/0
7	7/20	Waushara	Wautoma	EF0	0.1mi	10yd	0/0
8	8/7	Burnett	Randall	EF0	0.1mi	10yd	0/0
9	8/9	Dane	Deerfield	EF0	0.7mi	25yd	0/0
10	8/20	Walworth	Delavan	EF0	0.7mi	150yd	0/0
11	8/27	Monroe	Tomah	EF1	5.1mi	150yd	0/0
12	8/28	Marquette	Oxford	EF1	0.65mi	50yd	0/0
13	8/28	Marquette	Endeavor	EF1	1.8mi	75yd	0/0
14	8/28	Green Lake	Marquette	EF1	3.22mi	90yd	0/0
15	8/28	Green Lake	Markesan	EF0	2.09mi	50yd	0/0
16	8/28	Fond du Lac	Alto	EF1	4.71mi	175yd	0/0
17	8/28	Fond du Lac	Brandon	EF0	0.63mi	50yd	0/0
18	8/28	Fond du Lac	Waupun	EF1	4.54mi	100yd	0/0
19	8/28	Fond du Lac	Oakfield	EF0	0.14mi	50yd	0/0
20	8/28	Fond du Lac	South Byron	EF1	0.92mi	100yd	0/0
21	8/28	Dodge/ Fond du Lac	Brownsville	EF2	3.95mi	150yd	0/0
22	8/28	Fond du Lac	South Byron	EF1	0.15mi	80yd	0/0
23	8/28	Dodge	Brownsville	EF1	2.7mi	100yd	0/0
24	8/28	Fond du Lac	Eden	EF1	3.05mi	100yd	0/0
25	8/28	Fond du Lac	Eden	EF1	4.48mi	90yd	0/0
26	8/28	Fond du Lac	Dundee	EF1	4.05mi	100yd	0/0
27	8/28	Fond du Lac	Dundee	EF0	0.04mi	80yd	0/0
28	8/28	Calumet/ Manitowoc	New Holstein	EF1	0.90mi	75yd	0/0
29	8/28	Sheboygan	Cascade	EF1	5.38mi	100yd	0/0
30	8/28	Sheboygan	Oostburg	EF0	0.30mi	75yd	0/0
31	9/20	Pierce	Diamond Bluff	EF0	0.87mi	100yd	0/0
32	9/20	Pierce	Ellsworth	EF0	1.67mi	140yd	0/0
33	10/3	Shawano	Mattoon	EF0	1.0mi	25yd	0/0

Wisconsin Tornadoes 2018



National Weather Service

Tornado Safety Before the Storm:

Develop a plan for you and your family for home, work, school and outdoors. Know the safest shelter areas in multiple locations.

- Have frequent drills.
- Keep a disaster supply kit in your home including water, food that won't spoil and needs no heat to serve, first-aid kit, NOAA Weather Radio (also known as an emergency weather radio), a flashlight and special items for children, pets and elderly family members.
- Be sure your weather radio is working properly. Spring is a great time to install fresh batteries.

If you need further information, please contact your county or tribal emergency management director or Andrew Beckett at andrew.beckett@wisconsin.gov or 608-242-3211.

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 All Hazards 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 thunderstorm with large hail and damaging winds has been reported or indicated by weather radar.

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