



Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2019

Michigan Statewide Tornado Drill on March 27, 2019 *Michigan's Severe Weather Awareness Week March 24-30*

Traverse City – Grand Traverse County Emergency Management is calling upon community members to take action to prepare by participating in a statewide tornado drill at 1:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, March 27. In conjunction with the statewide drill, Grand Traverse County will conduct its annual county wide test of the CodeRED Emergency Notification System.

Businesses, organizations, families, and individuals are encouraged to be a part of the voluntary statewide preparedness activity. Nearly all state of Michigan facilities will be participating.

While tornadoes can occur during any time of the year, they are especially common during the late spring and early summer months. As one of nature's most violent storms, they can devastate homes and property in just seconds.

The average lead time for tornadoes to develop is 10 to 15 minutes, which means citizens need to be ready to react quickly when a warning is issued.

To be ready for a tornado:

- Identify the lowest place to take cover during a tornado. If a basement does not exist, find an interior hallway away from windows, doors, and outside walls.
- Go under something sturdy—such as a workbench or stairwell—when taking shelter in the basement or designated spot.
- Conduct regular tornado drills. Make sure each household member knows where to go and what to do in the event of a tornado.
- Stay tuned to commercial radio or television broadcasts for news on changing weather conditions or approaching storms.

- Know the difference: a Tornado Watch means conditions exist for a tornado to develop; a Tornado Warning means that a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.
- Be aware of the following signs that can indicate an approaching tornado:
 - Dark, often greenish sky
 - Large hail
 - A large, dark low-lying cloud
 - Loud roar, similar to a freight train
- Develop a 72-hour emergency supply kit with essential items such as a three-day supply of water and food, a NOAA Weather Radio, important family documents, and items that satisfy unique family needs.

About Severe Weather Awareness Week

For more information about being safe before, during, and after a tornado, go to www.GrandTraverse.org/EM or <https://www.facebook.com/GTCemergency/>
Emergency preparedness information is also available at www.ready.gov/tornadoes.

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