

# TORNADOES WITH STATEWIDE DRILLS



## Areas of Focus

Watch vs. Warning

Prepare, Respond and Recovery

Tornado Drill Day

## Thursday's Focus

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from the base of a thunderstorm down to the ground. Tornadoes are capable of completely destroying well-made structures, uprooting trees, and hurling objects through the air. Tornadoes can occur at any time of day or night and at any time of the year. Although tornadoes are most common in the Central Plains and the southeastern United States, they have been reported in all 50 states.

## Watch vs. Warning

**Watch:** Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans and check supplies and your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching. Acting early helps to save lives!

**Warning:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. There is imminent danger to life and property. Move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows. If in a mobile home, a vehicle, or outdoors, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris.

## Preparation, Response, and Recovery-Stearns County

### Preparation

- Know the locations of designated shelter areas in public facilities, such as schools, public buildings and shopping centers.
- Have emergency supplies on hand during tornado season
- Be sure everyone in your household knows in advance where to go and what to do in case of a tornado warning is issued.
- Sign up for emergency alerts with Stearns County.

### Response

- Whenever severe thunderstorms threaten your area, listen to the radio or television newscasts for the latest information and instructions.
- When a tornado has been sighted, stay away from windows, doors and outside walls. Protect your head from falling objects or flying debris.

### Recovery

- Listen to local officials for updates and instructions.
- Check-in with family and friends by texting or using social media.
- Watch out for debris and downed power lines.
- Stay out of damaged buildings and homes until local authorities indicate it is safe.
- Use extreme caution during clean-up of building and around debris.



## Tornado Drill Day

On **Thursday April 16, 2020** simulated tornado watches and warnings will be issued to test the statewide warning and communications systems. All counties in Minnesota normally participate in the first drill at 1:45 p.m. or the second drill at 6:45 p.m. unless actual severe weather is expected.

[Statewide Tornado Drill Day Schedule](#)