



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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**Wisconsin Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week
April 11-15, 2011**

(MADISON) Are you and your family ready for storms? Tornadoes and Severe Weather are guaranteed in every Wisconsin spring and summer. Preparing now could save your life and the lives of loved ones.

April 11-15, 2011 is Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin. The campaign is to remind people of the dangers associated with tornadoes, thunderstorms, flooding and hail and to encourage citizens to take protective safety measures. A statewide drill is planned for Thursday, April 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The drill will be an ideal opportunity for schools, businesses and individuals to practice safe procedures for severe weather and to learn more about severe weather including:

-Wisconsin averages 21 tornadoes annually.

-In 2010, 46 tornadoes in Wisconsin were confirmed by the National Weather Services, the second greatest yearly number on record. Fortunately, no one was killed but 22 were injured and the tornadoes caused nearly \$30 million in property damage.

-The peak tornado season in Wisconsin is April to August, but tornadoes can occur any time of year, like the January 7, 2008 tornadoes in Walworth and Kenosha Counties.

-Tornadoes can occur anytime, day or night, but are most frequent between 4pm and 9pm.

Wisconsin Emergency Management, ReadyWisconsin and the National Weather Service have planned a series of special efforts to promote storm safety including:

-PSA Campaign: A TV public service campaign with tornado survivors urging everyone to have an emergency weather radio.

-Survival Stories: Other real Wisconsin survivors share their tornado stories on the ReadyWisconsin website.

-Ready Radio Days. ReadyWisconsin teams up with the National Weather Service and TV stations across the state to promote the use of emergency weather radios.

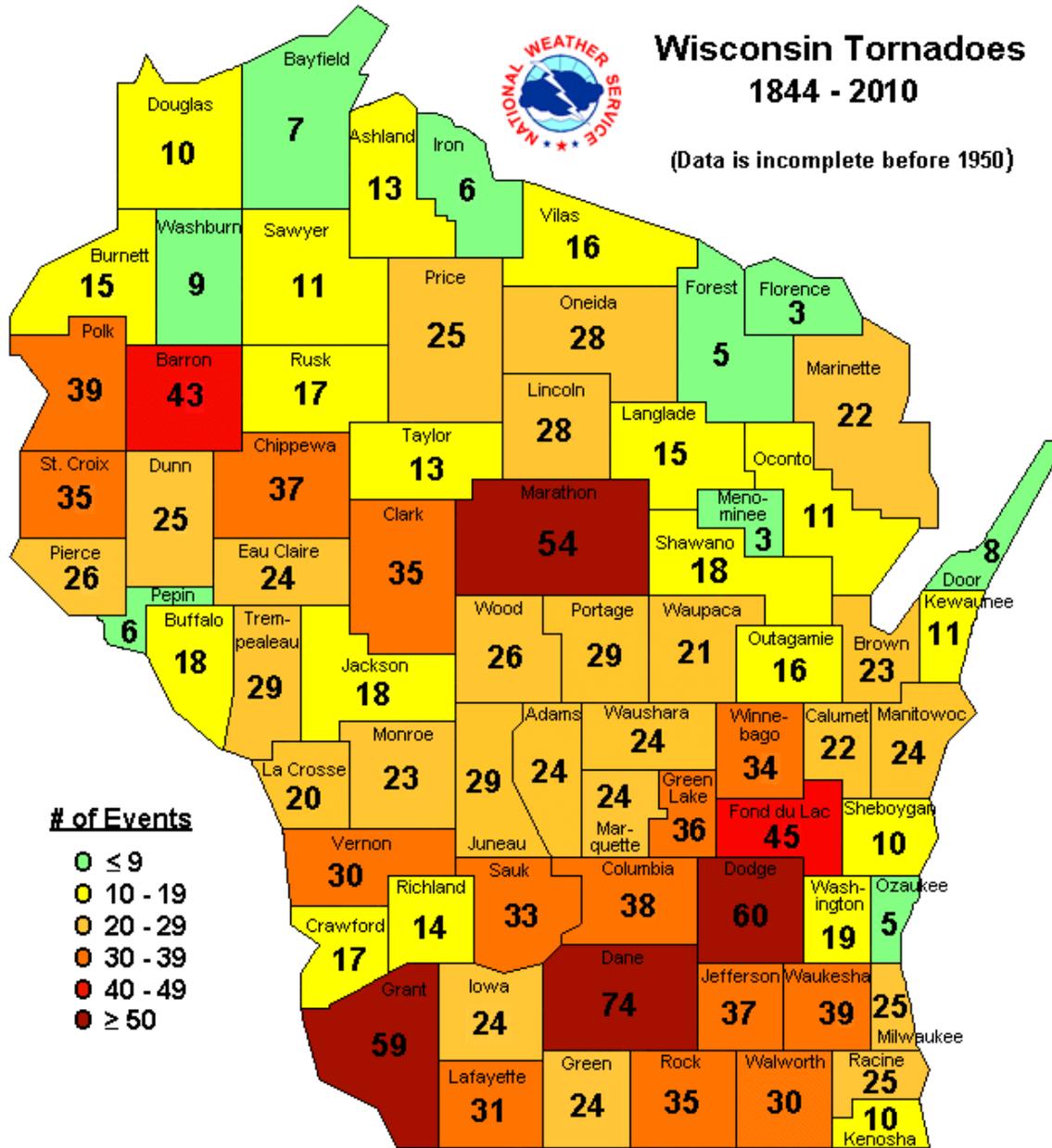
-ReadyWisconsin Trivia Challenge: Answer a question for a chance to win an Emergency Weather Radio. Go to <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov> to enter.

***Attached are five pages with more information on these special efforts and Wisconsin tornado and severe storm safety information. Additional maps and information are also posted at <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>. If you need further information, please contact your county emergency management director, National Weather Service or Tod Pritchard at tod.pritchard@wisconsin.gov or 608-242-3324.**



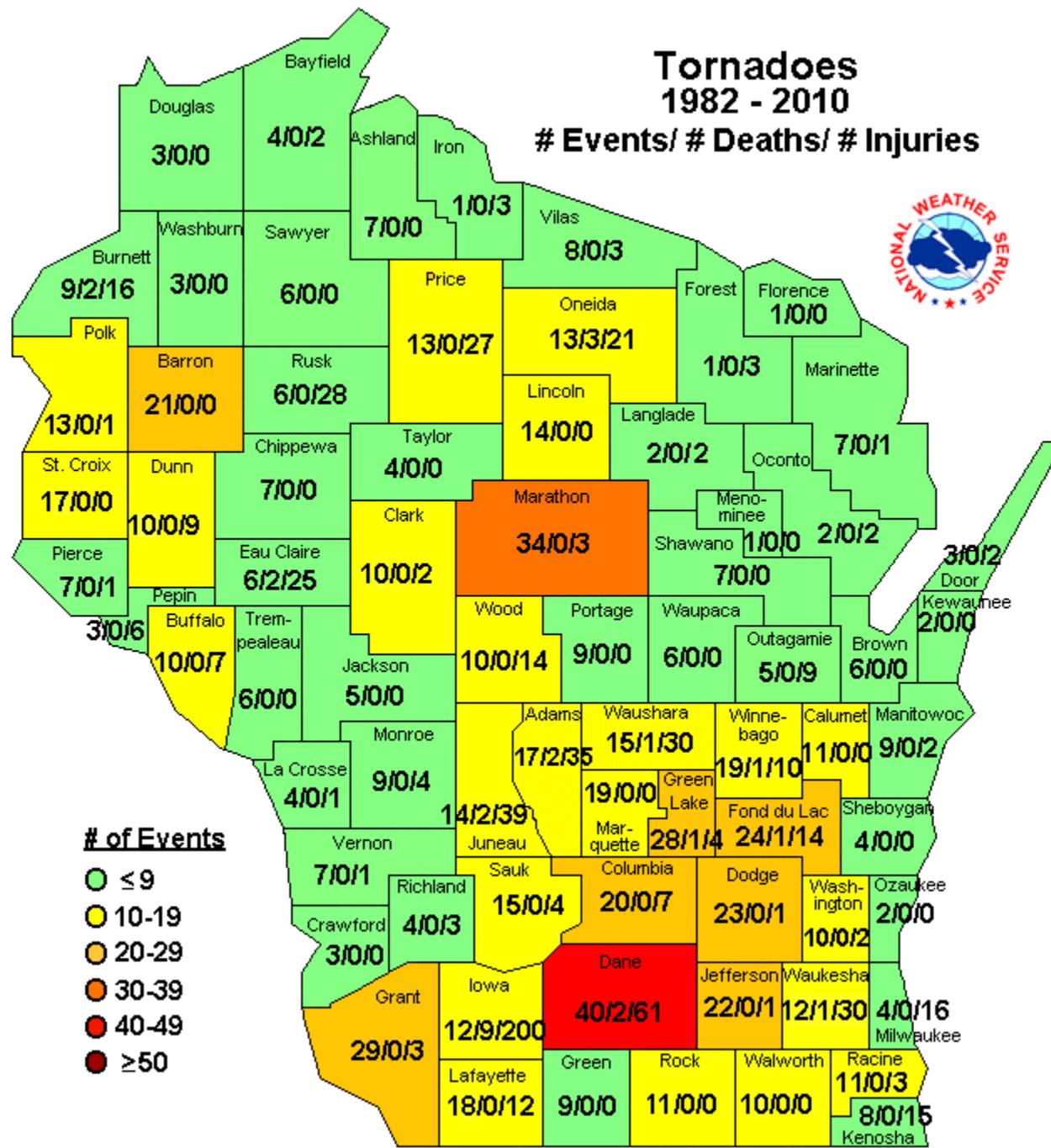
Wisconsin Tornadoes 1844 - 2010

(Data is incomplete before 1950)



Tornadoes 1982 - 2010

Events/ # Deaths/ # Injuries



- # of Events**
- ≤ 9
 - 10-19
 - 20-29
 - 30-39
 - 40-49
 - ≥ 50

Statewide Tornado Drill - April 14, 2011

To encourage citizens to be prepared for severe weather, Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) and the National Weather Service (NWS) are once again promoting Wisconsin's Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week. The statewide tornado drill will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2011. Many schools and businesses participate in the annual daytime drill. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, WEM and the NWS have distributed tornado and severe weather information to schools. If there is actual severe weather on April 14, the tornado drill will be postponed until **Friday, April 15**, with the watch/warnings issued at the same time. Below are the scheduled times for the mock watches/warnings. Keep in mind that you will not hear weather radio tone-alerts for the mock tornado watch and warnings on certain weather radios. In these cases you will have to manually turn on your weather radio in order to hear the mock tornado watch and warnings.

1:00 pm - Mock TORNADO WATCH for all of Wisconsin MOCK TORNADO WARNINGS

1:10-1:15 pm - National Weather Service Green Bay issues Mock Tornado Warning for Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marathon, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Outagamie, Portage, Shawano, Vilas, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago and Wood Counties.

1:20-1:25 pm - National Weather Service Milwaukee/Sullivan issues Mock Tornado Warning for Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Marquette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha Counties.

1:30-1:35 pm - National Weather Service La Crosse issues Mock Tornado Warning for Adams, Buffalo, Clark, Crawford, Grant, Jackson, Juneau, LaCrosse, Monroe, Richland, Taylor, Trempealeau and Vernon Counties.

1:40-1:45 pm - National Weather Service Minneapolis/Chanhassen issues Mock Tornado Warning for Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Rusk and St. Croix Counties.

1:50-1:55 pm - National Weather Service Duluth issues Mock Tornado Warning for Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer and Washburn Counties.

2:00 pm - END OF MOCK TORNADO WATCH/WARNING DRILL

Watches & Warnings:

TORNADO WATCH: Conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms.

TORNADO WARNING: A tornado is imminent (based on weather radar information) or has been sighted by spotters. If a tornado warning is issued for your area - move to your pre-designated place of safety. **SEEK SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!**

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH: Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms with damaging straight-line (downburst) winds and/or large hail.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING: Severe thunderstorms with damaging straight-line winds and/or large hail are imminent or are occurring.

Where to Go In Severe Weather:

- **In a house with a basement:** Avoid windows. Get in the basement and under some kind of sturdy protection (heavy table, work bench or stairs), or cover yourself with a mattress or sleeping bag.
- **In a house with no basement, a dorm, or an apartment:** Avoid windows. Go to the lowest floor, small center room (like a bathroom or closet), under a stair well or in an interior hallway with no windows. Crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down; and cover your head with your hands. Even in an interior room, you should cover yourself with some sort of thick padding (mattress, blankets, etc.), to protect against flying or falling debris.
- **In an office building:** Go directly to an enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building -- away from glass. Then, crouch down and cover your head. Interior stairwells are usually good places to take shelter. Stay off elevators- you could become trapped in them if the power is lost.
- **In a mobile home:** Get out! Most tornadoes can destroy even tied-down mobile homes. If your community has a tornado shelter, go there fast. If there is a sturdy permanent building within close distance, seek shelter there. Otherwise, lie flat on low ground away from your home, protecting your head. If possible, use open ground away from trees and cars, which can be blown onto you.
- **At school:** Follow the drill! Go to the interior hall or room in an orderly way as you are told. 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.
- **In a car or truck:** If tornado is in the distance, drive at right angles to the tornado movement. If there is time, get out of your vehicle and seek shelter in a permanent building. If there is no time, you have a choice – you can stay in your vehicle with your seat belt on, or you can get out and lie flat and face down, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Either way you run the risk of injuries or death.

Emergency Weather Radios Save Lives:

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) and the National Weather Service (NWS) encourage families, schools and businesses to have an Emergency Weather Radio. These radios are like “smoke alarms” for danger. The radio picks up emergency information 24-hours a day with critical information directly from the National Weather Service and other agencies and can be programmed to monitor specific counties in your area. You can purchase Emergency Weather Radios at most electronic retailers. For more information on Emergency Weather Radios go to <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>

Also Before the Storm:

- Develop a plan for you and your family for home, work, school and outdoors.
- Have frequent drills.
- Know the county/township in which you live, and keep a highway map nearby to follow storm movement from weather bulletins.
- Listen to local radio and television stations for further information.

A Disaster Supplies Kit Should Include:

- A 3-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person.
- Blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first-aid kit, including prescription medicines.
- Emergency tools, including a battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a portable radio, flashlight, and plenty of extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys and a credit card or cash.
- Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members.

Other Resources for Tornado and Severe Weather:

ReadyWisconsin

<http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>

National Weather Service — *Links to local NWS offices*

<http://www.weather.gov>

For more information, please contact your County Emergency Management Director or your local National Weather Service Office.