



WASHBURN COUNTY  
*Office of Emergency Management*  
P.O. Box 429, 421 Hwy. 63  
(715)468-4730 Fax (715)468-4715  
E-mail: [cbuck@co.washburn.wi.us](mailto:cbuck@co.washburn.wi.us)

**When a tornado/severe weather warning has been issued, citizens should do the following:**

- Go immediately to a safe location, tornado shelter, basement, cave, or underground excavation, if time allows.
- If outdoors - move at right angles to the tornado's path.
- If outdoors and can't escape - lie flat in the nearest ditch or depression.
- If outdoors - never stay in car, get out and lie flat on the ground away from the car.
- If outdoors – cover your head and neck with your arms and cover your body with a coat or blanket, if possible.
- If you are in a city - go or stay inside a reinforced building.
- If you are in a city - stand against the inside wall on the bottom floor of an office building.
- Stay away from all windows.
- Take additional cover by shielding your head and neck with your arms and putting materials such as furniture and blankets around you.
- Evacuate immediately if in a mobile home.
- Keep tuned to local alerting systems, radio, television, or social media for the latest information.

**Immediately after a tornado, citizens should do the following:**

- Check for injuries. Provide first aid.
- Call 9-1-1 if emergency medical assistance is needed.
- If you are trapped, cover your mouth with a cloth or mask to avoid breathing dust. Try to send a text, bank on a pipe or wall, or use a whistle instead of shouting.
- Stay away from damaged buildings until you are told they are safe.
- Save your phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messaging or social media to communicate with family and friends.
- If home is severely damaged – leave.
- Be careful during clean-up. Wear thick-soled shoes, long pants, and work gloves.
- Check gas lines for leaks. If gas is smelled, open windows and shut off main valve. Leave and report gas leakage to authorities.
- Report broken sewer or water mains to local authorities.
- Stay clear of fallen power lines or broken utility lines.
- Stay away from disaster areas. Sightseeing interferes with rescue efforts.
- Keep tuned to radio, television, and social media for advice and instructions. Government should be providing information on where medical attention can be obtained, where to go for emergency assistance such as housing, clothing, food, etc. and other ways in which a citizen can recover from the tornado emergency.