

"I Don't Think We're in Kansas Anymore Toto."

Of course not, we're in Wisconsin and springtime in Wisconsin brings the potential of TORNADOS.

Nature's most violent storm, a tornado can whip winds in excess of 200 miles per hour, can grow to a mile in width and rip through the state for 50 miles or more. Their cone-shaped form becomes visible as dust, debris and water are picked up and spun.

Tornadoes have touched down in every state in the lower 48, in every month and at all times of the day or night. Tornadoes are however, most common from March to May and between the hours of 3:00 pm. and 9:00 pm.

Keep your eye on the sky. Those approaching dark blue, gray and green skies to the south and west are the most common carriers of a potential tornado. When conditions are right for tornadoes, tune in to a weather radio, a commercial radio or television for **Watches** or **Warnings**. Tornadoes are many times preceded by heavy rain and/or large hail.

Remember, a **Tornado Watch** means that conditions are favorable for the development of a tornado. A **Tornado Warning** means a tornado has been sighted.

So what should you do? When a tornado warning is issued, seek safe shelter immediately! Move to a designated shelter or the lowest, windowless room in the structure. If you're in a mobile home or an auto, get out and into a nearby building. If there is no building, lay flat in a ditch or depression. Cover your head and hang on.

At your home, it's wise to have a survival kit prepared for just such emergencies. Components of the survival kit should include water, non-perishable food, first-aid items, flashlights, batteries, essential medicine and hygiene items. Throw in a deck of cards too.

Have the **Brains** to plan and prepare.

Have the **Heart** to notify those close to you of severe weather conditions.

Have the **Courage** to keep an eye on the sky and an ear to weather info.

Wisconsin; There's No Place Like Home.

If you have any questions, please call Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue at 886-6200.