



Plan – Practice – Monitor – Act!

Plan - Practice - Monitor - Act is an effective, comprehensive approach to severe weather preparedness. Each element is a part of the whole. If any piece is missing, you don't have a complete pie, and you won't have the same result.

The concept was born from analysis of such amazing success stories as the tornado that struck Parson's Manufacturing on July 13, 2004 and Van Wert, Ohio of November 10, 2002. From these examples, we can see how a practical and thorough approach to severe weather saves lives.

Parson's Manufacturing: A Success Story



On July 13, 2004 an F4 tornado with winds over 210 mph struck and destroyed Parson's Manufacturing in central Illinois. Approximately 140 people were in the plant at the time, but all made it to storm shelters in less than 3 minutes, and there was not a single injury.

This incredible success is directly attributed to careful planning, frequent drills, diligent attention to weather conditions, and quick action.

For Businesses and Schools

Each year an average of 25 tornados touch-down in eastern Iowa and western Illinois. Imagine if a tornado like the one at Roanoke strikes your facility. Would you be prepared?



Would your employees and visitors be safe? Do you have an effective severe weather safety plan in place and in practice in your facilities?

For Everyone

Scout groups, sports teams, families, and citizens are just the beginning. In fact, anyone can benefit from taking a simple but comprehensive approach such as Plan – Practice – Monitor – Act!

Easy to Implement



The best plans are simple but effective. For example, if you are camping with a group of teens, the plan might be as simple as checking the forecast before you go, evaluating your camp site and identifying nearby shelters when you arrive.

Practicing might be a quick all-hands meeting to go over the plan, and monitoring the weather is as simple as assigning a Designated Weather Watcher and giving them a NOAA Weather Radio. Then if dangerous weather strikes, action can be quick and effective!

“The best plans are simple but effective.”

Plan – Practice – Monitor – Act! Outline

- Plan**
- ✓ Know the threats. (Flash Flood, Hail, Lightning, Blizzard, Extreme Heat/Cold, Tornado, Wind)
 - ✓ Address each threat as it applies to your group.
 - ✓ Consider time of day, different shifts, and varying activities when you plan your response.

- Practice**
- ✓ Make sure everyone knows the plan. (Training meetings, new employees, tour guides, etc.)
 - ✓ Practice the plan! (In-house drills, tabletop exercises, etc.)
 - Evaluate time needed to act
 - Evaluate suitability of shelters
 - ✓ Participate in Severe Weather Awareness Week – tornado drill day for each state

- Monitor**
- ✓ Who is the Designated Weather Watcher?
 - ✓ How will they monitor conditions? (NOAA Weather Radio, internet, TV, etc)
 - ✓ Do they use all information available before and during to optimize response?
 - Outlook: What to expect that day through the next several days
 - Watch: Threat occurring within a few hours
 - Warning: Imminent threat to life

- Act!**
- ✓ Be proactive!
 - ✓ Make sure the right people on site have authority to implement the plan.
 - ✓ Establish criteria:
 - Will you act based on watches, warnings, reports, other?
 - Consider how much time you need for people to reach shelter.
 - ✓ How will action be initiated?
 - What are your primary and backup means of communication?
 - ✓ Where will people go?
 - Is there appropriate shelter?
 - Is there enough space for everyone who will be there at various times of day?
 - Interior of building, lowest floor
 - Minimize windows
 - Consider FEMA safe-room guidelines
 - Is there protection from potential “missiles”? Hazardous materials?
 - Don’t forget visitors, tour groups, etc.!
 - ✓ Make sure you have enough time to get there.
 - ✓ How will you communicate an “all-clear”?

On the web:

Plan – Practice – Monitor – Act! www.weather.gov/quadcities/?n=ppma
 National Weather Service www.weather.gov
 FEMA www.fema.gov
 Red Cross Preparedness www.redcross.org
 Shelter Checklist www.severeweather.state.mn.us/Documents/TornadoShelterAreaDetermination.pdf