



## ***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!

# ***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.

## ***Practice***

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

## ***Monitor***

- Who is the Designated Weather Watcher?
- How will the monitor conditions? (NOAA Weather Radio, internet, etc)
- Use information available before, during, and after:
  - Outlook: what to expect that day
  - Watch: threat 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:
  - Based on watches, warnings, reports, other?
  - Consider how much time you need for people to reach shelter
- How will action be initiated?
  - Means of communication
- Where will people go?
  - Appropriate shelter
  - Interior of building, lowest floor
  - Without windows
  - Roof tied to walls – walls tied to foundation
  - New construction or retrofit to FEMA saferoom guidelines
  - Protection from “missiles”
  - Enough space
  - Consider visitors ...esp. large groups.
- 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/dvn/?n=ppma](http://www.weather.gov/dvn/?n=ppma)  
National Weather Service..... [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)  
Red Cross Preparedness ..... [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)