

...THIS WEEK IS TORNADO AND SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK...

HOW TO STAY ON TOP OF THE WEATHER:

WITH SUMMER QUICKLY APPROACHING THE BADGER STATE...YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS WEATHER SITUATIONS QUICKLY. AN EXCELLENT WAY TO KEEP ABREAST OF RAPIDLY CHANGING WEATHER CONDITIONS IS TO PURCHASE A NOAA WEATHER RADIO ALL HAZARDS RECEIVER AT YOUR FAVORITE ELECTRONICS STORE. MAKE SURE YOUR WEATHER RADIO HAS A BATTERY BACK-UP IN CASE YOU LOSE COMMERCIAL POWER.

BESIDES NOAA WEATHER RADIO AS A SOURCE OF WEATHER INFORMATION...COMMERCIAL TV AND RADIO STATIONS AND CABLE STATIONS BROADCAST CRITICAL WEATHER INFORMATION. OF COURSE...WEATHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE INTERNET.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WATCH AND A WARNING:

BE SURE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TORNADO WATCH AND WARNING. NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO REVIEW THE DIFFERENCE BEFORE SEVERE WEATHER HITS.

TORNADO WATCH...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ISSUES A WATCH TO GIVE YOU ADVANCE NOTICE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF TORNADOES IS POSSIBLE IN YOUR AREA WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL HOURS. THIS GIVES YOU THE TIME TO MAKE PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR MOVING TO A SAFE SHELTER QUICKLY IF A TORNADO DEVELOPS.

TORNADO WARNING...A TORNADO WARNING IS AN URGENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A TORNADO HAS BEEN REPORTED BY A PERSON OR IS IMMINENT DUE TO DOPPLER RADAR INFORMATION. TAKE SWIFT...IMMEDIATE ACTIONS. WHEN A WARNING IS ISSUED..MOVE QUICKLY. SECONDS SAVE LIVES!

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ISSUES A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH TO GIVE YOU ADVANCE NOTICE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEVERE STORMS WITH POWERFUL AND DAMAGING DOWNBURST WINDS AND LARGE HAIL ARE POSSIBLE IN YOUR AREA WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL HOURS. THIS GIVES YOU THE TIME TO MAKE PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR MOVING TO A SAFE SHELTER QUICKLY IF A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM DEVELOPS.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING...A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING IS AN URGENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A SEVERE STORM WITH DAMAGING WINDS AND/OR LARGE HAIL HAS BEEN REPORTED BY A PERSON OR IS IMMINENT DUE TO DOPPLER RADAR INFORMATION. TAKE SWIFT...IMMEDIATE ACTIONS. WHEN A WARNING IS ISSUED..MOVE QUICKLY.

WHICH GROUPS OF PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE A SAFETY PLAN:

INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS SCHOOLS...OFFICE BUILDINGS...AND FACTORIES SHOULD HAVE A WELL-REHEARSED PLAN OF ACTION IN CASE OF HAZARDOUS WEATHER. THIS INCLUDES HAVING A NOAA WEATHER RADIO TO MONITOR THE CURRENT AND FUTURE WEATHER CONDITIONS...AND A PERSON WHO WATCHES FOR SEVERE STORMS.

IN ADDITION...ORGANIZERS OF OUTDOOR EVENTS...WHERE LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE GATHER...SHOULD HAVE A PLAN OF ACTION.

PEOPLE AT HOME SHOULD ALSO HAVE A PLAN OF ACTION...WHICH INCLUDES HAVING AN EMERGENCY KIT THAT CONTAINS WATER...NON-PERISHABLE FOOD... EXTRA MEDICINE AND CLOTHING...FLASHLIGHTS AND BATTERIES...AND EXTRA CASH AND OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS.

FINAL WORDS OF ADVICE:

DURING THIS TIME OF YEAR YOUR SAFETY DEPENDS ON YOU BEING ALERT AND CAUTIOUS. IT IS ALSO A GOOD TIME TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU KNOW WHAT COUNTY YOU LIVE IN OR ARE VISITING. THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ISSUES SEVERE WEATHER WATCHES AND WARNINGS FOR COUNTIES.

IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE BECAUSE THE SKY OR CLOUDS LOOK THREATENING... THEN SEEK A SAFE SHELTER...EVEN IF A WARNING HASN'T BEEN ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOES NOT ISSUE WARNINGS FOR LIGHTNING. LIGHTNING IS A HAZARD WITH ANY THUNDERSTORM. IF YOU CAN HEAR THUNDER...YOU ARE CLOSE ENOUGH TO BE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

FOR ADDITIONAL SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION AND UP TO DATE FORECASTS AND WATCHES/WARNINGS/ADVISORIES...PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT...

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/GRB](http://www.weather.gov/grb)