

Severe Weather 2016

Michigan's Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 10th thru 16th. The City of Livonia's Emergency Preparedness Department would like to remind the community to take this time to prepare and plan for the unexpected. Michigan residents are encouraged to learn more about the risks associated with severe weather and become familiar with the information necessary to help them protect themselves and their property in the event of severe weather.

Michigan's geographical location makes it susceptible to a variety of severe weather events, including flooding, tornadoes, blizzards, sustained heat and drought. Residents are urged to become aware and prepared for severe weather to protect themselves, their families and property.

In 2015 Michigan had several severe storms that spawned 14 tornados across the state, which is near the average of 15. While tornadoes are nature's most violent weather, all forms of severe weather can have a huge impact on the State of Michigan. Michigan citizens need to be vigilant whenever severe weather is in the forecast, not only for tornadoes, but also for wind, hail, flooding and lightning. While tornadoes can occur during any time of the year, they are especially common during the late spring and early summer months, with the average lead time for these storms to develop being only 10 to 15 minutes. This means citizens need to be ready to react quickly when a warning is issued.

If a severe storm or tornado warning is issued:

- ✓ Find shelter and take cover in an interior room of a building, preferably a basement. If a basement does not exist, find an interior hallway away from windows, doors and outside walls.
- ✓ Tune to radio or TV broadcasts for news on changing weather conditions or approaching storms.
- ✓ Know the difference:
 - Watch means conditions exist for a tornado or severe storms to develop
 - Warning means severe storms are eminent a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar.
- ✓ Be aware of the following signs that may indicate a tornado:
 - Dark, often greenish sky
 - Large hail
 - A large, dark low-lying cloud
 - Loud roar, similar to a freight train

- ✓ Develop a 72-hour emergency supply kit with essential items such as a three-day supply of water and food, a NOAA Weather Radio, important medications, critical documents and items that satisfy your unique needs.

As part of the severe weather awareness week, the State of Michigan is encouraging participation in a statewide tornado drill that will occur at 1:30 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, April 13. This statewide drill is a part of a seasonal effort to encourage Michigan residents to take action to prepare and practice emergency plans.

Although the City of Livonia stands together with the State of Michigan in emergency preparedness and planning, Livonia will not sound the sirens during this drill. The City of Livonia will continue with its monthly test on **the first Saturday of each month at 1pm only.**

For more information about being safe before, during and after a tornado or other preparedness measures, go to <http://livoniapd.com/> and click on the Home Town security link at the bottom. Emergency preparedness information is also available at www.ready.gov/tornadoes .