

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Contact:

Tyler Esh  
Emergency Management Coordinator  
(715) 839-4736  
[tyler.esh@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:tyler.esh@co.eau-claire.wi.us)

Kelli Engen, RN  
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Specialist  
715-271-0425  
[kelli.engen@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:kelli.engen@co.eau-claire.wi.us)

## TORNADO AND SEVERE WEATHER WEEK: April 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

### Eau Claire, WI April 12, 2017 –

Next week marks Wisconsin's severe weather awareness week. Emergency Preparedness officials from the Office of Emergency Management (EM) and Eau Claire City-County Health Department are teaming up to inform the public how to prepare for severe weather activity that happens as the weather gets warmer.

Paying attention to the weather forecast as Wisconsinites do in the winter also applies in the spring and summer months. Some tips for Tornadoes and severe storms include;

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Large hail
- A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
- Loud roar, similar to a freight train.
- If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.



“Having an emergency kit is something we want people to prepare” says Kelli Engen, RN. “This should include basic need items like water, food, medications, for up to 72 hours after a storm.” More information about [what to put in a kit](#) can be found @www.Ready.gov.

Planning ahead for designated shelters is best, but often storms strike with little warning. Safe shelters include designated areas in public buildings, lowest levels of solid structures. If a storm cellar or basement isn't available, an internal room is best. Manufactured and mobile homes are unsafe in storms, and if you live in one you should have a safe shelter identified before the storm hits. If you are outside or traveling, seek shelter in low land areas. Do not park your car beneath an overpass.

**Planning ahead is the best way to prepare for the storm.** “On Thursday April 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 pm and 6:45 pm tornado drills will be happening statewide,” states Emergency Management Coordinator, Esh. Follow Eau Claire County Emergency Management Facebook and Twitter pages; for more preparedness tips under the #prepareau Claire hashtag.

###