



NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF DEARBORN HEIGHTS

**Department of
Emergency Management
and Homeland Security**

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For Immediate Release

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Heights residents encouraged to participate in April 11 tornado drill

Dearborn Heights, Michigan - To highlight Michigan's April 12-18 Severe Weather Awareness Week, Dearborn Heights residents are encouraged to take a few moments from their schedules tomorrow (Wednesday, April 11) to participate in the 1:00 p.m. statewide tornado drill. The purpose of the drill is to encourage residents to become more aware of our area's weather-related hazards, such as severe storms, and consider the steps they should take in response to these hazards.

"Tornadoes can develop rapidly, with little or no warning," said Capt. Chris A. Kelenske, Deputy State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and commander of the MSP/EMHSD. "Due to their unpredictable nature, we must be ready well in advance. We're asking citizens and businesses to take few extra steps during the week to ensure they're prepared and safe."

While tornadoes can occur during any time of the year, they are especially common

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during the late spring and early summer months. As one of nature's most violent storms, they can devastate homes and property in just seconds.

The average lead time for tornadoes to develop is 10 to 15 minutes, which means citizens need to be ready to react quickly when a warning is issued.

To be ready for a tornado:

- Identify the lowest place to take cover during a tornado. If a basement does not exist, find an interior hallway away from windows, doors and outside walls.
- Go under something sturdy—such as a workbench or stairwell—when taking shelter in the basement or designated spot.
- Conduct regular tornado drills. Make sure each household member knows where to go and what to do in the event of a tornado.
- Stay tuned to commercial radio or television broadcasts for news on changing weather conditions or approaching storms.
- Know the difference: a Tornado Watch means conditions exist for a tornado to develop; a Tornado Warning means that a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.
- Be aware of the following signs that can indicate an approaching tornado:
 - Dark, often greenish sky
 - Large hail
 - A large, dark low-lying cloud
 - Loud roar, similar to a freight train

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- 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 family documents and items that satisfy unique family needs.

About Severe Weather Awareness Week

Severe Weather Awareness Week is sponsored by the MSP/EMHSD and Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (MCSWA) to educate the public about the dangers of tornadoes and other severe weather events, including the precautions that can be taken to save lives and protect families. The MCSWA was formed in 1991 to encourage Michigan residents to be prepared in the event of severe weather. To learn more about the committee, go to www.mcswa.com.

For more information about being safe before, during and after a severe storm or tornado, follow the MSP/EMHSD on Twitter at [@MichEMHS](https://twitter.com/MichEMHS) or go to www.michigan.gov/beprepared. Emergency preparedness information is also available at www.ready.gov/tornadoes, as well as on the City of Dearborn Heights Website by clicking on the “Public Safety”, then the “Emergency Guide” tabs from the left-hand column of the site’s home page.

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