

"Notes From School"

Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week

The week of April 11-15 has been proclaimed as Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin. During the week, the School District of Mondovi will take time to go over the procedures needed when severe weather strikes to ensure that staff and students are prepared.

Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually. In 2015, 17 tornadoes were reported in Wisconsin by the National Weather Service (NWS).

On Thursday, April 14, 2016, two statewide tornado drills are planned. A mock tornado watch will be issued statewide by the NWS at 1:00 PM. The NWS will then issue a statewide mock tornado warning at 1:45 PM. This drill ends at 2:00 PM.

At the School District of Mondovi, we:

- Develop an action plan with frequent drills.
- Review the plan annually.
- Identify safe shelter areas that take into account the structural design and the amount of time it takes for students to get to the area.
- Make special provisions for students that need additional assistance.
- Ensure students know the protective position.
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio in order to receive emergency weather information.
- Delay lunches, assemblies, passing times, or dismissal if severe weather is anticipated.

For the first time, an emergency drill is scheduled on the same day with a mock tornado warning to take place at 6:55 PM. This gives your family a great opportunity to practice your severe weather plans at home.

The following recommendations, from the Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management, should be considered while at home, work, or when you're away:

- In a home or building, move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement, and get under a sturdy table or the stairs. A specially-constructed "safe room" within a building offers the best protection. Search on the internet for "safe room" for more information.

- If a basement is not available, move to a small interior room on the lowest floor and cover yourself with anything close at hand: towels, blankets, or pillows. If possible, get under a sturdy table, desk, or counter. Put as many walls as possible between you and the storm. Stay away from windows.
- If caught outdoors, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If you cannot quickly walk to shelter, get into a vehicle, buckle your seatbelt and drive to the closest sturdy shelter. If flying debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park. Now you have two options as a last resort:
 - Stay in the vehicle with the seatbelt on and place your head below the windows.
 - If you can safely get noticeably lower than the roadway, exit the vehicle and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands. Do not seek shelter under an overpass.
- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes. You should leave a mobile home and go to the designated storm shelter or the lowest floor of a sturdy nearby building.
- Make sure you have multiple ways to receive weather information. A NOAA Weather Radio, access to local TV, and smart phone apps can keep you informed when severe weather threatens.