



# WOOD COUNTY EMA Preparedness & Safety Updates

April 2026



To ensure your personal safety and awareness, it is crucial to have multiple, redundant methods for receiving emergency alerts and warnings. Relying on a single system can lead to failure during power outages or technical issues. Effective strategies include using Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on mobile phones, NOAA Weather Radio, local community alert systems, TV/radio broadcasts, and mobile apps.

## Options to receive alerts:

- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA): Messages sent directly to your cell phone from local cell towers involving imminent threats, AMBER alerts, and presidential alerts. Ensure these are enabled in your phone's notification settings.
- NOAA Weather Radio: A dedicated, battery-operated radio that provides 24/7 alerts for severe weather and, in some cases, other hazards.
- Emergency Alert System (EAS): A national public warning system used for TV and radio broadcasts, allowing for emergency information to be broadcast, including during national emergencies.
- Mobile Applications: Apps like the FEMA app provide real-time, location-based weather alerts and emergency information.
- Local Alert Systems: Many communities have opt-in text, email, or telephone alert systems for localized emergencies. Wood County used to use CodeRED for alerts, but is moving to Everbridge. Check out our social media (Facebook, X, Nextdoor, Instagram), our webpage, or reach out to our office for more information on how to sign up.
- Outdoor Sirens: Used to alert people who are outdoors to seek shelter immediately and look for more information.

Redundancy is important because different systems have unique failure points, such as battery depletion or internet outages.

**Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)**  
can alert you when weather threatens!

WEAs are emergency messages sent by government authorities to your mobile phone, reserved for life-threatening situations.

Keep WEAs enabled on your phone. It could save your life or the lives of others.

No power?  
No cell service?  
NO PROBLEM!!

Weather information and emergency alerts!

**NOAA WEATHER RADIO**  
has you covered

weather.gov/nwr

**Download the FEMA App Today**

Get Access to:

- Weather Alerts
- Disaster Resources
- Preparedness Tips

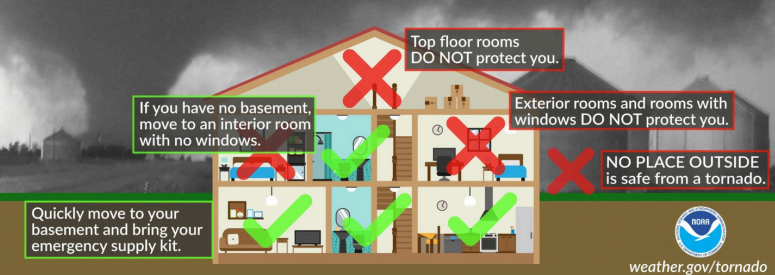
**THINK AHEAD,  
HAVE A PLAN,  
BE PREPARED  
FOR ANY  
EMERGENCY.**



Ready

## Know Where to Go

When Sheltering from a Tornado



- **STAY WEATHER-READY:** CONTINUE TO LISTEN TO LOCAL NEWS OR A NOAA WEATHER RADIO TO STAY UPDATED ABOUT TORNADO WATCHES AND WARNINGS.
- **AT YOUR HOUSE:** IF YOU ARE IN A TORNADO WARNING, GO TO YOUR BASEMENT, SAFE ROOM, OR AN INTERIOR ROOM AWAY FROM WINDOWS. DON'T FORGET PETS IF TIME ALLOWS.
- **AT YOUR WORKPLACE OR SCHOOL:** FOLLOW YOUR TORNADO DRILL AND PROCEED TO YOUR TORNADO SHELTER LOCATION QUICKLY AND CALMLY. STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS AND DO NOT GO TO LARGE OPEN ROOMS SUCH AS CAFETERIAS, GYMNASIUMS, OR AUDITORIUMS.
- **OUTSIDE:** SEEK SHELTER INSIDE A STURDY BUILDING IMMEDIATELY IF A TORNADO IS APPROACHING. SHEDS AND STORAGE FACILITIES ARE NOT SAFE. NEITHER IS A MOBILE HOME OR TENT. IF YOU HAVE TIME, GET TO A SAFE BUILDING.
- **IN A VEHICLE:** BEING IN A VEHICLE DURING A TORNADO IS NOT SAFE. THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION IS TO DRIVE TO THE CLOSEST SHELTER. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MAKE IT TO A SAFE SHELTER, EITHER GET DOWN IN YOUR CAR AND COVER YOUR HEAD, OR ABANDON YOUR CAR AND SEEK SHELTER IN A LOW LYING AREA SUCH AS A DITCH OR RAVINE.

## Spring into Action with A Family Emergency Plan

Spring is a great time to review your plan with family members. Have a home and car emergency kit. The Federal Emergency Management Agency says an emergency kit should include one gallon of water per day for each person, at least a three-day supply of food, flashlight and batteries, first aid kit, filter mask, plastic sheeting and duct tape, and medicines.

Visit <https://www.ready.gov/kit> for a complete list.

The emergency plan also should include:

- A communications plan to outline how your family members will contact one another and where to meet if it's safe to go outside
- A shelter-in-place plan if outside air is contaminated; FEMA recommends sealing windows, doors and air vents with plastic sheeting
- A getaway plan including various routes and destinations

## LET'S "TACO-BOUT" TORNADO WATCHES VS. WARNINGS....

**WATCH** MEANS WE HAVE ALL OF THE INGREDIENTS. BE PREPARED.  
**WARNING** MEANS IT IS HAPPENING. TAKE ACTION!



**Tornado Watch:** Be Prepared! Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans, take inventory of your supplies and check your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching. Acting early helps to save lives! Watches are issued by the Storm Prediction Center for counties where tornadoes may occur. The watch area is typically large, covering numerous counties or even states.

**Tornado Warning:** Take Action! A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. There is imminent danger to life and property. Move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows. If in a mobile home, a vehicle, or outdoors, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris. Warnings are issued by your local forecast office. Warnings typically encompass a much smaller area (around the size of a city or small county) that may be impacted by a tornado identified by a forecaster on radar or by a trained spotter/law enforcement who is watching the storm.

## WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A Department under the Board of County Commissioners:  
Doris I. Herringshaw Ed.D., Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus, Craig LaHote

CONTACT US: 419-354-9269

WOODCOUNTYEMA@WOODCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

