

**If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning.** Go to safe shelter immediately, and listen to local radio and TV stations for information and instructions. Make sure your NOAA weather radio is turned on. When a storm approaches, unplug appliances and turn off the air conditioner. Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliances, and do not take a bath or shower.

**If you are in the woods,** take shelter under the shorter trees. If you are **boating or swimming,** get to land and find shelter immediately!

**If you can't find shelter,** go to a low lying, open place away from trees, poles or metal objects. Squat low to the ground, and place your hands on your knees with your head between them. **Do not lie flat on the ground!**

After the storm passes, stay away from storm-damaged areas. Listen to the radio or watch local TV stations for information and instructions.

**If someone is struck by lightning,** he or she does **not** carry an electrical charge and can be handled safely. Call 911 and give first aid. Basic first aid skills can be invaluable, so learn them now. See your local yellow pages for a list of providers who teach first aid classes.



...thunder-  
storms...

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# T O R N A D O S



*If you do not have a basement, a bathroom on the lowest floor of your home is a good place to seek shelter during a tornado. Be sure to take your weather radio into your temporary shelter.*

Pick a place where family members could gather if a tornado is headed your way. Basements are best; if you don't have one, choose a center hallway, bathroom or closet on the lowest floor.

**If you are outside,** hurry to the basement or a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.

**If you are in a car or mobile home,** get out immediately and head for safety. After the tornado, watch out for fallen power lines and stay out of the damaged area. Listen to the radio or watch local TV stations for information and instructions.



May 2012

## RAMSEY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



**Chris Jaeger,**  
Emergency Manager

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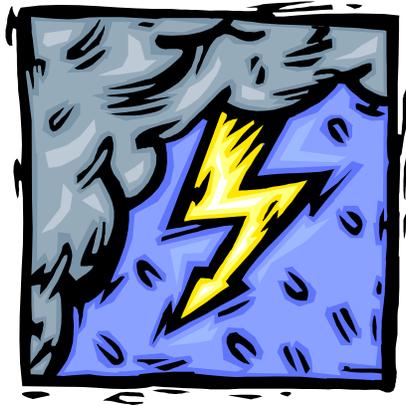
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## Watches and Warnings...

A storm **watch** means a storm is *possible* in your area. When a watch is issued, listen to local radio and TV stations for additional information or visit [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov).

Be alert to changing weather conditions and avoid unnecessary travel.

A storm **warning** means a storm **IS** headed for or is already in your area. When a storm warning is issued, safety experts recommend that you stay indoors; it is the best place to protect yourself.



## LOCAL SHELTERS:

There are **TWO** Emergency Shelters within the City of Devils Lake:

1. Ramsey County Courthouse, Basement
2. North Dakota School for the Deaf, Basement.

(Use main doors for each building)

In the event of a Severe Weather Warning, these two emergency shelters will be open for public use. Please call Chris Jaeger, Ramsey County Emergency Manager @ 662.7001 if you have any questions.

# SIRENS

Outdoor warning sirens alert us to: **chemical spills, severe weather and other outdoor emergencies.** When sirens sound, go indoors and turn on a local TV or radio station to find out what the threat is and how to protect yourself.

**Do not assume there is not an emergency because skies are clear.**

Testing of the sirens occurs in the first week of May of each year. Please tune into local radio stations a couple of weeks prior for details.

## Reverse 911

Reverse 911, also known as City-Watch, is a system used by our local Law Enforcement Center to call individuals automatically in the event of an emergency. If you are not registered with the system yet, please register on their website at [www.lrllec.org](http://www.lrllec.org). This is for the registering of cellular telephones. This system will not be utilized for severe weather notifications at this time.

### \*\*Evacuation Zones\*\*

For more information and map of Evacuation Zones for the City of Devils Lake and immediate surrounding areas, please visit the County's website at: [www.co.ramsey.nd.us](http://www.co.ramsey.nd.us)



**Fire:** Siren is "on" for 16 seconds, "off" for 8 seconds. Cycle repeats for a 1 ½ minute duration. The "off-on cycle" results in a shrill high-low pitch for 1 ½ minute duration.

**Tornado:** Warning siren is "on" for 3 minute duration, with no interruption, sounding like a constant high-pitched shrill for 3 minutes.

**Attack:** Warning siren is "on" for 6 seconds, "off" for 3 seconds. Cycle repeats for 3 minute duration. The "off-on cycle" results in a shrill high-low pitch for a 3 minute duration.

## Evacuation and Community Shelters

Local government officials issue evacuation orders when disaster threatens. Listen to local radio and TV reports when an emergency arises. If local officials ask you to leave, do so immediately!

**If you only have moments to evacuate, grab the following:**

- Medical supplies—prescription medications, diabetes test strips, etc.
- Eyeglasses or contact lenses and cleaning solution
- Emergency preparedness kit
- Clothing and bedding
- Car keys

**If local officials have not advised an immediate evacuation, take these steps to protect your home before you leave:**

- Turn off electricity at the main fuse or breaker and turn off water at the main valve.
- Leave natural gas on unless local officials advise otherwise.
- If high winds are expected, cover the exterior of all windows.
- If flooding is expected, consider using sandbags to keep water away.
- Take important papers with you—driver's license, social security card, Insurance policies, birth and marriage certificates, stocks, wills, etc.

Community shelters may be opened in certain emergencies or disasters. Local media will announce their locations. In most cases the shelter will provide only emergency items such as meals, cots and blankets. Be aware that pets (other than service animals) are usually not permitted in community shelters for health reasons.