

NEWS RELEASE

March 8, 2026

March 8-14 Declared Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Indiana

Governor Mike Braun has declared March 8-14 as Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Indiana. The Marshall County Emergency Management Agency is urging county residents to participate in this week's education efforts.

Marshall County is no stranger to severe weather, as just last spring, two tornadoes caused injuries and property damage in the county. Severe storms can strike anytime, anywhere, and it is imperative to be prepared!

Here are a few ways to prepare yourself this week:

1. Sign up for weather alerts!

There are numerous outlets for receiving weather alerts. Locally, EMA recommends downloading the Marshall County smartphone app, which will send push notifications when severe weather is in the area. Other private weather-specific apps will do the same thing. Having multiple methods of receiving alerts is encouraged!

2. Know your terminology!

The National Weather Service issues three different levels of severe weather alerts: statements, watches, and warnings. Tornado and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are the most critical alerts and are only issued when severe weather is actively occurring. Watches are typically issued a few hours in advance of severe weather and indicate that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes/severe storms. Special Weather Statements are used when the storms are below severe criteria but may still pose a threat to life and property.

3. Have a plan and practice it!

Design a severe weather plan with your family and workplace so you know exactly where to go during severe weather. Always seek shelter indoors when you see lightning! If a Tornado Warning is issued, go to the lowest level and most interior room of your structure.

The statewide tornado drill is scheduled for 10:15 AM on Tuesday, March 10th. However, severe thunderstorms are in the forecast for Tuesday, which may cause the test to be rescheduled to Wednesday.

During the statewide tornado drill, Marshall County Dispatch will be sounding the outdoor warning sirens under the county's control. Sirens in Bourbon, Center, and Union Townships are controlled by the county. All other sirens in the county are manned by their responding fire departments. EMA encourages those fire departments to participate in the drill and activate their sirens as well. Schools and businesses should take the time to execute their tornado safety plan during this drill.

For more tips throughout the week and updated information on Tuesday's severe weather forecast & tornado drill, follow Marshall County EMA on Facebook!

- Jack Garner, EMA Director, Marshall County