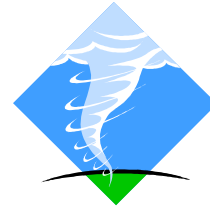


# SEVERE WEATHER ALERT

The goal of every emergency agency is to keep all of their residents safe through each and every severe storm. One of those ways, is by activating the severe weather alert sirens. The Village of Montpelier has five (5) alert sirens in various locations within the Village.



*The severe weather alert sirens are tested the first Monday of every month*



**Below is some terminology used by the National Weather Service. Knowing these terms will help you to better assess what is going on in your area when listening to the radio or television.**

**Watch** - Conditions are favorable for the severe weather even in or near the watch area. Watches are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods.

**Warning** - The severe weather event is imminent or occurring in the warned areas. Warnings are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, flash floods, and river flooding.

**Severe Thunderstorm** - A storm that produces hail 3/4 inch in diameter or larger and/or wind gusts of 58 mph or more.

**Tornado** - A violently rotating column of air attached to a thunderstorm and in contact with the ground.

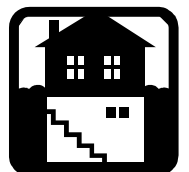
**Funnel Cloud** - A rotating, funnel-shaped cloud extending downward from a thunderstorm base.

**Downburst** - A strong downdraft with an outrush of damaging wind on or near the ground.

**Flash Flood** - A rapid rise in water, usually within 12 hours of a period of heavy rain or other causative agent (i.e. dam break).

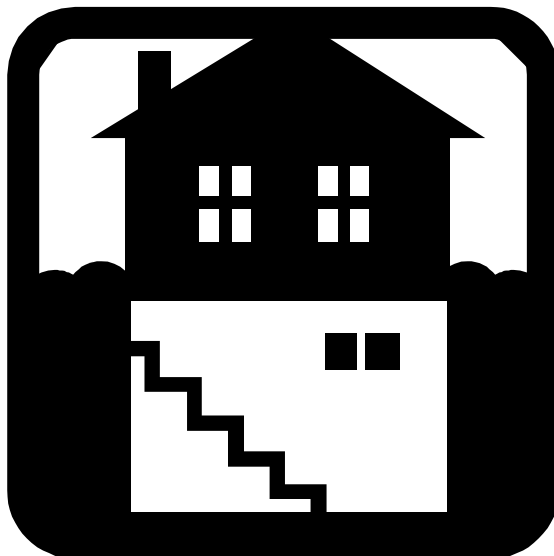
***The Severe Weather Alert Sirens are activated by the Williams County 9-1-1– Communications Agency once they are advised by the National Weather Service that severe storm warnings have been issued for our area.***

***Upon hearing the alert sirens, citizens should turn on a radio, weather radio, or turn on their television to a local channel and seek cover .***



## **TORNADO SAFETY RULES**

- The safest place to be is an underground shelter, basement, or safe room.
- If no underground shelter or safe room is available, a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building is the safety alternative.
- *Mobile homes* are not safe during tornadoes. Abandon mobile homes and go to the nearest sturdy building or shelter immediately.
- If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter in a basement, shelter, or sturdy building. If you cannot quickly walk to a shelter:
  - Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.
  - If flying debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park. You now have the following options as a last resort:
    - Stay in your vehicle with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering your head with your hands or a blanket if possible.
    - If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway (example: a ditch), exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.
  - Your choice should be decided by your specific circumstances.



The storm definitions and the tornado safety rules were provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and National Weather Service. More information may be found at <http://www.weather.gov/os/brochures.shtml>