

St. Croix County Severe Weather Advisories

The National Weather Service (NWS) has announced that Wisconsin will participate in a 12 state trial involving “Impact-Based Warnings”. The NWS believes this system will allow forecasters to tailor each warning message to individual storms by communicating expected hazards and impacts, as well as actions people should take to remain safe.

Tornado Warning Tier 1: This warning will include a bulleted list that clearly communicates hazard and impacts. This is the most common type of warning.

Tornado Warning Tier 2: When there is substantial evidence of a large and dangerous tornado, the warning will include the phrase. “This is a particularly dangerous situation,” to identify a high threat level, describe expected damage and promote urgency to seek immediate shelter. A damage threat of “considerable” will be embedded in the warning.

Tornado Warning Tier 3: When a known, potentially violent tornado is likely to produce devastating damage, the warning will announce a “Tornado Emergency” and direct the public to seek shelter immediately. A damage threat of “catastrophic” will be embedded in the warning. This is the highest level of tornado warning.

County-Based Notification

With a County-Based Notification approach we would activate all sirens County-wide with each tiered upgrade for a storm.

Quadrant-Based Notification

Using County Trunk E and County Trunk T as the geographical boundaries, we would break the County into quadrants. Dispatchers would use the NWS advisory to determine which quadrant(s) are impacted and would activate the sirens accordingly. If the NWS upgrades a storm to a different tier, we would activate the sirens again only within that quadrant.