



National Weather Service Newport/Morehead City Forecast Office Weather.gov/Newport



North Carolina Severe Weather Preparedness Week is March 1-7, 2020 Statewide Tornado Drill on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 9:30 AM Visit weather.gov/Newport/swpw

The 2020 North Carolina Severe Weather Preparedness Week will occur the first full week of March, from March 1 through March 7, 2020. The Statewide Tornado Drill will occur on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 9:30 AM. Every school, business, workplace, and family across the state is strongly encouraged to participate in this drill.

It is important that all schools and businesses are aware of the following important points about the tornado drill:

- The drill will be broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio and the Emergency Alert System via the Required Monthly Test (RMT). **There will not be an actual Tornado Warning issued.**
- Many NOAA Weather Radio receivers (including the older Midland WR-100 radios that many schools have) do not sound an audible alert for the RMT product; instead, they may have a blinking light on the display to indicate that an RMT was received. As such, when the RMT for the statewide tornado drill is initiated at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, there is a chance that your NOAA Weather Radio will not sound an alarm.
- Since your NOAA Weather Radio may not sound an alarm at the time the RMT is issued, you will want to do one of the following:
 - Manually turn on your NOAA Weather Radio receiver and simply listen to the audio broadcast to hear when the RMT is issued, which will mark the beginning of the statewide tornado drill.
 - Simply plan to start your tornado drill on your own at 9:30 AM.
- There will be no follow-up statements issued by the NWS to mark the end of the statewide tornado drill. It will simply be over when your group, school, business, or organization feels that you have adequately practiced your tornado shelter procedures.
- If there is actual severe weather occurring on the morning of Wednesday March 4, 2020, the statewide tornado drill will be postponed. The alternate date for the drill is Friday, March 6, 2020, at 9:30 AM.
- This drill and RMT will take the place of the usual weekly NOAA Weather Radio Alert test (RWT). That is, there will not be a weekly radio test done between 11 AM and Noon on that day.

Please direct any questions about Severe Weather Preparedness Week or the tornado drill to Erik Heden, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, at (252) 223-5327, or via email at Erik.Heden@noaa.gov. In addition, please visit the NWS Newport Severe Weather Preparedness Week web site at <http://www.weather.gov/newport/swpw> for additional information about this important preparedness campaign.

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