How will I receive notice of an upcoming tornado drill?
Notification of the statewide drill is disseminated a couple different ways.

First, the Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs emails a memo campus wide with drill specifics and emergency procedure reminders.

Secondly, Emergency Management utilizes the campus Message of the Day (MOD) to announce the drill, send out reminders and offer other emergency management/preparedness trainings.

Can you move the time of the annual tornado drill during Severe Weather Awareness Week?
No, the timeline for the statewide mock tornado watch and warning is determined by Wisconsin Emergency Management in conjunction with the National Weather Service (see sample timeline below).

SAMPLE TIMELINE FOR STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL

- 1:00 p.m. the National Weather Service issues a mock tornado watch
- 1:45 p.m. the National Weather Service issues a mock tornado warning

The tornado warning indicates the start of our campus wide tornado drill.

What occurs on campus during a tornado drill?
During the tornado drill:

- University Police will sound a tornado warning announcement in all buildings equipped with voice-capable speakers.
- The tornado warning test message will broadcast via the Pointer Alerts system delivering the message to cell phones, campus computers, Residential Hall public address, email, and the campus webpage (RSS feed).
- Owners of NOAA weather radios will receive the National Weather Service watch and warning test messages.
- Portage County outdoor sirens will activate.
- Other warning methods (TV, radio, Internet, NWS, etc.) will be activated by the respective entity.

How do I know where the nearest storm shelter is located?
Please note building floor maps and severe shelter signs have been installed in campus buildings to assist you. Building floor maps are also available on the Emergency Management website.
What if there is severe weather forecasted for the day of the drill?
The tornado drill will take place even if the sky is cloudy, dark and or rainy. If actual severe storms are expected in the state on the day of the drill, the tornado drill will be postponed until the next day with the same time. If severe storms are possible the next day as well, the drill will be cancelled.

What is expected of faculty and department heads in preparation for a tornado drill?
Prior to a tornado drill, review preparedness materials sent out via Message of the Day (MOD) by UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management. (See also UW-Stevens Point Emergency Operations Plan and the Tornado/Severe Weather emergency procedure.)

Faculty members and department supervisors shall make an announcement to their class or employee group regarding tornado safety, discuss the location of the appropriate shelter for their building(s), and review the proper path from their classroom or work area to the nearest shelter location.

What direction should staff and faculty give to students during a tornado drill?
When a tornado WARNING drill is activated, UW-Stevens Point staff shall go to their designated shelter location until test alarms are deactivated (about five minutes total) then return to normal work. Where practical, academic classes are strongly encouraged to perform an actual drill by moving to the appropriate shelter for the duration of the test. Students in Residential Halls should go to the designated shelters.

In the event of an actual tornado warning, all individuals shall proceed and remain in the shelter areas until the warning has expired.

Where can I find the campus severe weather procedure?
The severe weather procedure is found on the Emergency Management website under Emergency Procedures – Tornado/Severe Weather. You can also find the emergency procedure in the campus Emergency Guidebook (flip guide) and in our campus Emergency Operations Plan.

How can we receive notice of a tornado watch?
There are many ways to be notified of a tornado watch.

- myPoint posts severe weather notifications in two different locations:
  - ‘Hot Topics’ section of the Home tab
  - Top right hand side of screen in the black bar on all of the myPoint tabs
- On the campus Emergency Procedures page, there is a link in the “Other Emergency Response/Information” section entitled Weather Update that links you over to Weather Underground where you can see the latest radar and weather notices by area.
- Smartphone apps such as the FEMA Emergency app

How can faculty/staff and students sign up for Pointer Alerts text messages?
If you are a student, click here for instructions how to enter/update your primary cell phone information.

If you are faculty or staff, click here for instructions how to enter/update your primary cell phone information.

UWSP Emergency Management is available to assist with emergency preparedness training or any other questions (call ext.4464 or email cneeb@uwsp.edu).