



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Pasco County participates in Great Tornado Drill *~~Severe Weather Awareness Week is January 23-27, 2017~~*

PASCO COUNTY, FL ---- On Wednesday, January 25th, 2017 all Pasco County Board of County Commissioner departments participated in the National Weather Service's Great Tornado Drill. The Pasco County [Division of Emergency Management](#) conducted the drill, directing departments to review preparedness plans.

Severe Weather Awareness Week began with a real threat of severe weather Sunday, January 22, 2017 when Pasco County and the Tampa Bay Area were under a severe weather watch due to a possible tornado-producing storm system.

Tornadoes can strike any time, although they tend to form more often in the spring and summer – beginning in February. Follow these tornado safety tips to help you prepare:

- Build an emergency kit and take part in a family tornado drill
- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio and television newscasts
- Sign up for and monitor email from the [Division of Emergency Management](#)
- Be alert to changing weather conditions, particularly dark, rotating clouds
- When a storm approaches, be prepared to take shelter immediately:
 - In buildings: go to a room at the center and lowest level of the building
 - In mobile homes: get out immediately and go to the nearest building; have a plan ahead of time as mobile homes cannot provide adequate tornado protection
 - Outdoors: drive to the nearest building, take cover in a stationary vehicle, or lie in an area lower than the level of the roadway, covering your head with your hands
 - DO NOT stay under an overpass or bridge or try to outrun a tornado
- Watch for flying debris, which causes the most injuries and fatalities during tornadoes

For more safety information, please visit the Pasco County [Division of Emergency Management](#) website at www.pascoemergencymanagement.com.

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