

MECHANICSVILLE

RAGBRAI Severe Weather Plan

1. Purpose
 - a. The purpose of this severe weather plan is to develop a procedure for warning RAGBRAI guests of approaching severe weather and to identify locations of safety where RAGBRAI guest may seek shelter.
2. Policy
 - a. The Cedar County Emergency Management Agency, in cooperation with the Cedar County Sheriff's Office and the National Weather Service, will monitor weather conditions during the time RAGBRAI guests will be in town in order to provide early warnings of approaching severe weather.
3. Procedure
 - a. The Cedar County Emergency Management Agency will be advised of approaching severe weather in a timely manner by the National Weather Service and the Cedar County Sheriff's Office.
 - b. Upon notification of approaching severe weather, Cedar County Sheriff's Office will broadcast all watches and warnings to local fire departments and law enforcement agencies. The National Weather Service shall broadcast thunderstorm and tornado warnings over the NOAA Weather Radios. Weather Radios are also strategically located throughout the community, including City Hall, Memorial Building, Fire Station, Nursing Home, and School. Emergency shelters in Mechanicsville will be unlocked upon notification of severe weather.
 - c. If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued for Cedar County, all Law Enforcement Agencies and RAGBRAI officials will be notified by a broadcast from the Cedar County Sheriff's Office. Law Enforcement officers will announce the warning to all RAGBRAI participants through their public address systems from their patrol car. Riders will be notified to relocate to the emergency shelters. If the National Weather Service has issued a tornado warning, the outdoor warning sirens shall be activated within the community by the public officials.

Locations of Shelters:

North Cedar Elementary 609 125th Street, Mechanicsville, equipped with weather radio, (approx 600 people)

Presbyterian Church 408 E First Street, Mechanicsville

United Methodist Church 307 E First Street, Mechanicsville

214 E First Street, basement about 1800 square feet of space

Memorial Building 102 N John Street, Mechanicsville (equipped with weather radio)

Fire Station/City Hall 100 E First Street, Mechanicsville (equipped with weather radio)

St. Mary's Catholic Church, 302 W Reeder St, Mechanicsville (not on route)

Last resort if more space is still needed:

North Cedar Elementary School (Old location) Corner of West South Street and South Monroe Street, Mechanicsville