



What should I do if a Storm is Coming?

You are now in **Owatonna**, Minnesota, which is in the **central part of Steele County** in southeastern Minnesota. Surrounding counties are Waseca, Freeborn, Dodge, and Rice.

When a weather emergency is imminent, Steele County SKYWARN spotters are sent out to safely report severe weather conditions. This information is exchanged with the National Weather Service (NWS) and local emergency management agencies and then distributed through local media outlets such as local radio and television stations. The City of Owatonna also has a warning siren system which may also be activated when dangerous conditions are present.

The Weather Channel on local cable TV is channel 67. Other TV channels reporting local weather are 4, 5, 9 and 11. Local radio stations that report severe weather information are KOWZ - FM 100.9, KOWZ - AM 1190, KRUE – FM 92.1, KRFO - AM 1390 and KRFO - FM 104.9 (Kat Kountry 105). The Internet is also an excellent source for radar and weather information. The following link is suggested: <http://www.steelecountyskywarn.org/WXDashboard.asp>

What do the following terms mean?

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: NWS Meteorologists have determined that severe thunderstorms are likely to occur in your area. Watch the sky and stay tuned in for when warnings are issued.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: NWS Meteorologists have determined that a severe storm is occurring or likely to occur. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm.

Tornado Watch: NWS Meteorologists have determined that tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. Be prepared to take shelter.

Tornado Warning: NWS Meteorologists have determined that a tornado is occurring or likely to occur. Take shelter immediately! *(The city warning siren system will likely be activated at this point...)*

The safest place to be is an underground shelter, basement, or safe room. If no underground shelter or safe room is available, a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building is the safest alternative. Please check with the Hotel front desk for further recommendations...

You can use the following map for reference to surrounding communities:

