

1 **2026 RES-047**

2 **URGING THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO REQUIRE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION**
3 **OF SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY SERVICE PLANS AND IMPROVED SAFETY**
4 **MEASURES FOR MOBILE AND MANUFACTURED HOME COMMUNITIES**

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6 Every year, Dane County and the State of Wisconsin experience severe weather, including
7 intense thunderstorms, flooding, extreme heat, and tornadoes, beginning in the spring and
8 continuing throughout the summer into fall. These events can develop quickly without warning
9 and they are predicted to increase in frequency and intensity as a result of our changing climate.

10
11 The State of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) are valued partners
12 who are committed to building a safe and resilient Wisconsin by coordinating statewide
13 resources, supporting local governments and tribal nations, strengthening preparedness for
14 emergencies, and educating the public about how to prepare for severe weather events.

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16 In recognition of Governor Evers’s declaration of April 13-17, 2026, as Severe Weather
17 Awareness Week, Wisconsin Emergency Management provided data and guidelines to help the
18 public understand the importance of severe weather preparedness.

19 According to Wisconsin Emergency Management, Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually.
20 In 2025, the National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed 39 tornadoes in the state, including 15
21 tornadoes that touched down in one day as storms moved across southern Wisconsin on May
22 15, 2025.^{1a}

23 Wisconsin Emergency Management also noted that mobile or manufactured homes and their
24 residents are particularly vulnerable to severe weather and that a mobile or manufactured home
25 is not a safe shelter location during a tornado. The agency urges those living in mobile homes to
26 “identify a safer structure to go to whether that is a community shelter location, nearby public
27 buildings or family and friends who live in sturdy structures. Know your evacuation route from
28 your home and how long it will take to get to a safer location.”

29 Severe weather is a serious safety concern for residents in mobile or manufactured home
30 communities across Wisconsin. The U.S. National Weather Service indicates that, statistically,
31 residents of mobile or manufactured homes are 15 to 20 times more likely to die in a tornado
32 than those who live in permanent structures; on average, a total of 72% of all tornado-related
33 fatalities are in homes with 54% of those fatalities occurring in mobile homes.²

34 Despite what we know about the dangers to mobile and manufactured home residents during
35 severe weather events, Wisconsin does not require mobile or manufactured home parks—
36 particularly those established before 1995—to provide on-site storm shelters. Current law under
37 Wis. Stat. § 710.15 and ATCP 125 requires only that operators disclose whether a shelter exists
38 and, if so, its location. There is no requirement that one be built or maintained.
39 The Dane County Board supports local and statewide awareness-building and education around
40 severe weather preparedness for all Wisconsinites, but given the additional dangers and risk of

¹ [READYWISCONSIN NEWS RELEASE: Wisconsin Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 13-17 | Wisconsin Emergency Management](#)

² [Severe Weather Awareness Week--Mobile Home Safety](#)

41 severe weather fatalities to residents living in mobile and manufactured homes, the state and
42 local authorities must ensure that these residents have equitable access to meaningful
43 emergency preparedness planning and housing safety resources in the event of severe
44 weather.

45 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors
46 respectfully urges the State of Wisconsin to take all of the following steps to protect the health,
47 safety, and welfare of residents living in mobile and manufactured home communities:
48

49 1. Initiate rulemaking through DSPS and DATCP to require storm shelters in all mobile
50 home parks with 10 or more units, including those currently exempted under prior rules.
51 Storm shelter capacity should be based on the number of residents, not units, and must
52 meet FEMA safe room standards and ADA accessibility requirements.
53

54 2. Establish a state grant or cost-sharing program to assist mobile home park
55 operators—especially smaller or community-owned parks—in constructing or upgrading
56 storm shelters. Federal hazard mitigation funding, including FEMA’s Building Resilient
57 Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant
58 Program (HMGP), could be leveraged to support this effort.
59

60 3. Require mobile home park operators to develop and distribute written severe weather
61 evacuation plans to all residents, with annual updates and coordination with local
62 emergency management.
63

64 4. Direct Wisconsin Emergency Management to conduct a statewide assessment of
65 storm shelter access in mobile home communities, identifying those with the greatest
66 unmet need and highest tornado risk.
67

68 5. Support legislation to update Wis. Stat. § 710.15 to include a clear storm shelter
69 requirement for mobile and manufactured home communities, replacing the current
70 framework that merely asks whether a shelter exists.
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72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors requests that the
73 Dane County lobbyist, on behalf of Dane county, support legislative efforts at the state level to
74 implement the above-requested actions to improve the safety of residents living in mobile and
75 manufactured home communities in Dane County and across Wisconsin.
76

77 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution shall be shared with Governor Evers,
78 members of the Wisconsin Legislature representing Dane County, Wisconsin Emergency
79 Management, and Dane County Emergency Management.