

NEWS RELEASE: Nov. 15, 2011

News conference Wednesday highlights disaster preparedness

The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management will mark Winter Weather Preparedness Day and the six-month anniversary of the Joplin tornado with a news conference **2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, in the office's media room, 833 Boonville Ave., Springfield.**

Representatives from the National Weather Service- Springfield Office, City Utilities of Springfield, the American Red Cross- Greater Ozarks Chapter, and the Office of Emergency Management will discuss this season's winter weather outlook and the importance of all-hazards home emergency planning.

Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Office of Emergency Management, will also highlight new easy-to-follow materials available through his office to help families prepare for severe weather, power interruptions and sheltering in place.

"People are most likely to take disaster preparation seriously within six months of a major event like a tornado," said Nicholls. "The Joplin tornado is still fresh in everyone's mind, and we hope the memory of that event spurs people to take action and make sure they have an emergency kit, a plan and the ability to stay informed during a disaster."

For more information, call the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management at 417-2-869-6040 or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Office, at 417-829-6019 or 417-224-5510.

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