



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 4, 2019

OEM Cancels Siren Activation for Annual Statewide Tornado Drill Due to Forecasted Freezing Temperatures

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri – Due to the below-freezing temperatures forecasted for Tuesday, March 5, the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management will not activate the Outdoor Warning Sirens for the annual statewide tornado drill.

“OEM’s outdoor warning siren activation policy states that if the temperature at the time of the scheduled siren activation is below 32 degrees, we will not activate the sirens,” said Deputy Director Samantha Foster. “This policy is in place to help sustain the life of the outdoor warning sirens to be used in the event of an actual severe weather emergency.”

While the outdoor warning sirens will not be activated, the statewide drill will still take place. NOAA weather radios and other forms of weather communication will still participate in the statewide tornado drill.

“Although the sirens will not activate for the statewide tornado drill, we still encourage the community to practice their tornado drills and severe weather response plans,” said Foster.

The purpose of the drill is to test community readiness for life-threatening severe weather events such as tornadoes and damaging winds.

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For more information, contact Branden Surgnier, OEM Public Information Officer at 417-869-6040 or bsurgnier@greencountymo.gov.