



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Office of Emergency Management Offers Safety Tips for Severe Weather Cleanup**

**SPRINGFIELD, Missouri** – Citizens and volunteers are advised to keep severe weather safety tips in mind while cleaning up debris from Tuesday’s storm.

“The safety of our citizens is of the utmost importance during these disaster recovery efforts,” said Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management Director Larry Woods. “We are fortunate to live in a community where our friends and neighbors are willing to help each other recover from Tuesday’s natural disaster. We want to make sure citizens are taking the proper safety precautions.”

Tips for severe weather damage cleanup:

- In general, if you suspect any damage to your home, shut off electrical power, natural gas, and propane tanks to avoid fire, electrocution, or explosions.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves, and gloves when handling or walking on or near debris.
- Be careful when entering any structure that has been damaged.
- Be aware of hazards from exposed nails and broken glass.
- Do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed lines. Report electrical hazards to the police and the utility company.
- Use battery-powered lanterns, if possible, rather than candles to light homes without electrical power. If you use candles, make sure they are in safe holders away from curtains, paper, wood, or other flammable items. Never leave a candle burning when you are out of the room.
- Never use generators, pressure washers, grills, camp stoves, or other gasoline, propane, natural gas, or charcoal-burning devices inside your home, basement, garage, or camper—or even outside near an open window, door, or vent. Carbon monoxide (CO)—an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death if you breathe it—from these sources can build up in your home, garage, or camper and poison the people and animals inside. Seek prompt medical attention if you suspect CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed, or nauseated.

**If you are injured during debris cleanup, contact your health care provider to consider whether you should get a tetanus vaccination. If you do not have insurance or otherwise have questions, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department is available Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm at (417)864-1658, option 3.**

If you are able to remove the debris materials on your own, you are encouraged to do so safely. To request volunteer assistance, call 417-755-0913 or 417-755-0614.

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**MEDIA - For more information**, contact Larry Woods, OEM Director at 417-379-2096 or [lwoods@greencountymo.gov](mailto:lwoods@greencountymo.gov).