



**SPRINGFIELD-  
GREENE COUNTY  
OFFICE OF  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT**

[WWW.GREENECOUNTYOEM.ORG](http://WWW.GREENECOUNTYOEM.ORG)

330 W. Scott St.  
Springfield, MO 65802

PREPARE | RESPOND | RECOVER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** March 18, 2020

**Office of Emergency Management Urges Citizens to Heed Severe Weather Warnings Amid Emergency Declarations**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo** – With the response to COVID-19, the novel coronavirus, Greene County and the City of Springfield have ordered restrictions on gathering sizes. Currently, the orders limit gatherings larger than 10 people. However, in addition to mitigating this public health concern, the Office of Emergency Management wants to address public safety as it pertains to severe weather. Spring is notorious for bringing severe weather, including tornadoes. The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management, The City of Springfield, The Greene County Commission and the Springfield-Greene County Health Department encourage the community to heed the current recommendations for sheltering – even if that means gathering in safe rooms or shelters where the numbers would exceed gathering limits.

“In conversations with the Springfield Mayor, Greene County Commission and the Health Department, OEM wants to make sure the citizens of Springfield and Greene County know that personal safety is important. To that end, please still use the community shelters that we are fortunate to have and follow the guidelines set out by property management if you live in an apartment complex,” said Larry Woods, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management. “Social distancing is important in this time, but please heed the warnings regarding severe weather. We would encourage property managers, as well, to continue to make their safe rooms and shelters available to their residents.”

To learn more about what you and your family can do to prepare for severe weather, including instructions on building your emergency kit visit: <https://greenecountymo.gov/oem>.

###

**For more information**, contact Amy Russell, OEM Public Information Officer at 417-869-6040 (office), 417-718-7671 (cell) or [arussell@greenecountymo.gov](mailto:arussell@greenecountymo.gov).