

NEWS RELEASE: March 12, 2012

Statewide Tornado drill Tuesday

The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management will participate in a statewide Tornado drill **Tuesday, March 13 at 1:30 p.m., weather permitting**. During the drill, Emergency Management officials will activate storm sirens in Springfield and urbanized areas of Greene County.

The statewide drill is coordinated by the State Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service, in observance of Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 12-16.

Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Office of Emergency Management, urges area residents, businesses and schools to treat Tuesday's storm siren drill as if it were an actual emergency, and practice moving to designated tornado shelters or areas of refuge in lower levels of buildings, away from windows and glass doors.

In 2011, 1709 tornadoes were recorded across the United States, 427 more than in 2010.

In the event of severe weather conditions Tuesday, the drill will be rescheduled for Thursday, March 15 at 1:30 p.m.

Nicholls also encourages residents to purchase and check the batteries in weather alert radios, which notify owners when storm warnings are issued in their area.

For more comprehensive disaster preparedness, Nicholls recommends enrollment in two training programs offered through the Office of Emergency Management: Hometown Ready, a certification program designed for businesses, schools, churches and other organizations; and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a disaster prevention and response skills program for individuals.

For more information about Hometown Ready or CERT, call the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management at 417-869-6040, or visit www.greenecountycert.org

For media inquiries about the statewide storm tornado drill, call Warren Robinson Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management Public Information Officer, at 417-869-6040 or 417-861-2478.