



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Severe Weather Awareness Week highlights importance of preparedness

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri – Residents of Greene County are urged to learn about severe weather and how to protect themselves during this week's annual Severe Weather Awareness Week. The goal is simple – save lives by encouraging preparedness. The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) urges citizens to do one thing each day throughout this week to become better prepared. "Disaster preparedness efforts don't have to be overwhelming," said OEM Director Larry Woods. "Taking small steps to prepare before a disaster ensures that you won't be caught off guard when the next severe weather event occurs."

Daily severe weather safety highlights throughout the week include:

- Monday, March 5 - Preparedness
- Tuesday, March 6 - Tornado Safety
- Wednesday, March 7 - Flash Flood Safety
- Thursday, March 8 - Severe Thunderstorm Day
- Friday, March 9 - Communication/NOAA Weather Radio

In coordination with Severe Weather Awareness Week, the annual statewide tornado drill will be held on March 6 at 10 a.m. OEM will activate the outdoor warning sirens in Greene County. This will replace the March monthly siren test. In the case of inclement weather, the drill will be held on March 8 at 10 a.m.

"We are no stranger to severe weather here in Greene County. Severe Weather Awareness Week provides a great opportunity to learn how to protect yourself against common hazards such as tornadoes, floods and severe thunderstorms, thereby increasing your level of preparedness." said Woods.

To kick-start your preparedness efforts:

- Build an emergency kit that includes non-perishable food items, water, clothing, and other essentials
- Develop a family plan that details who to contact and where to go in the event of a disaster
- Stay connected in order to receive real-time severe weather information and updates

For more information on Severe Weather Awareness Week, visit <https://www.weather.gov/lx/severeweek>.

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