EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
STORY COUNTY

Phone: 515-382-7315
900 6th Street
Fax: 515-382-3349
Nevada, IA 50201
www.storycounty.com/emergencymanagement

Lori Morrissey, Coordinator
Melissa Spencer, Assistant Coordinator

Severe Weather Awareness Week -- April 5-9, 2010

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and the National Weather Service have declared the week of April 5th through April 9th, 2010 Severe Weather Awareness Week. Severe Weather Awareness Week is an annual event to remind Iowans that severe weather is part of living in our state and that understanding the risks and how to respond to them can save lives.

During Severe Weather Awareness Week, the National Weather Service will promote severe-weather safety by issuing informative Public Information Statements.

The highlight of the week will be the statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, April 7, 2010.

Here are the tornado test details:

The FCC prohibits the use of live Emergency Alert System (EAS) warning codes for test messages. A waiver has been applied for by the Iowa Emergency Alert System (EAS). If the waiver arrives by March 31, 2010, then live tornado EAS codes wil be used during the test. If not, the tornado test EAS message sent through National Weather Service, NOAA All Hazards Radio transmitters will be sent using the Required Weekly Test (RWT) code. The RWT will be sent with the 1050 HZ tone alert on NOAA All Hazards Radio. Real test warnings will be sent through other dissemination systems such as the internet, weather wire services, the Iowa system and other non-EAS systems.

9:50 AM - Storm Prediction Center (SPC) coordinates with Iowa National Weather Service (NWS) offices about a test tornado watch for Iowa.

10:00 AM - SPC issues Test Tornado Watch for Iowa. Each Iowa WFO will issue test Watch Coordination Notification messages. Test watch will be toned and alerted on NOAA All Hazards Radio and sent through the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

10:15 AM- NWS Des Moines and Quad Cities issue test tornado warnings for their Iowa counties.
Cities/Law Enforcement Communications Centers please activate sirens in accordance with this warning!

10:30-10:35 AM - All Iowa NWS offices issues a Severe Weather Statement to terminate the test warnings.

11:00 AM - Test tornado watch expires.

If severe weather threatens on April 7th, the test will be conducted on April 8th at the same time.

Story County Events:

1. Briefings/electronic information dissemination with public officials and emergency responders with flood outlook/preparedness information
2. Review of emergency plans for severe weather and flooding
3. Disaster drills and training:
    a. Disaster Assessment training for public officials and volunteers
    b. Tornado spotter courses offered. Safety information disseminated to spotters.
    c. Tabletop exercises with public officials and volunteer groups
    d. Community Partnership & Awareness Course – 40 participants held on February 27th at Mary Greeley Medical Center auditorium
    e. Spring Fury community preparedness day on April 24th at Evangelical Free Church in Ames
    f. State-wide tornado drill to include tornado siren testing on Wednesday April 7th
    g. ISU College of Business Severe Weather Awareness Week displays April 6th from 10:30 – 12:30 at Gerdin Bldg
    h. Information disseminated to schools about the State-wide drill and weather information for children

Sincerely,

Lori Morrissey

Lori Morrissey, Story County Emergency Management Agency