

# Severe Weather Awareness Week 2012

## April 16 – 20, 2012



## **TORNADO DRILL DAY**

### **is Thursday, April 19, 2012**

On Thursday's Tornado Drill Day, people are encouraged to actually practice their severe weather sheltering plans. The outdoor warning sirens will be sounded at 1:45 pm for schools and businesses to practice their plan; and again at 6:55 pm for families to practice together at home.

More information is available at:

<http://www.severeweather.state.mn.us/>



## TORNADO & SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION

### **Tornado Watch (sometimes Severe Thunderstorm Warning):**

Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans, and check supplies and your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching. Acting early helps to save lives!

### **Tornado Warning:**

A tornado has been sighted by trained spotters or public safety personnel; or indicated by weather radar. Tornado warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Go immediately underground to a basement, storm cellar or an interior room (closet, hallway or bathroom).

### **Outdoor Warning Sirens:**

Outdoor warning sirens (aka: Tornado Sirens, Civil Defense Sirens) are designed to alert people outside to seek shelter. Do not expect to hear sirens inside homes, apartment buildings, schools or workplaces. Consider purchasing a NOAA weather radio if you need notification inside a building or workplace.

### **Siren facts:**

- a) Sirens only sound for about 5 minutes – that does NOT mean that the threat is over when the siren stops
- b) Once in a safe location, turn on a TV, radio or weather radio for weather updates to determine when it is safe.
- c) There are NO all clear soundings. In fact, a second storm front could result in a second siren sounding shortly after the first – sometimes mistaken as an all clear siren
- d) DO NOT call 9-1-1 to find out why the sirens are sounding

### **Shelters:**

Severe weather shelters should be in the lowest level of a building, and the innermost rooms. Stay away from windows, doors, and preferably outside walls. If there is no basement, inner rooms are best. Bathrooms, locker rooms, storage rooms (smaller rooms with walls for support) are often the best. In your home, pre-designate a shelter area and make sure everyone is aware of it. In schools or businesses, shelter areas should be pre-marked.

### **Outside:**

Seek shelter. Do not stay in your vehicle, do not go under bridges – they act as wind tunnels. If no shelter, lie flat in a ditch or depression and cover your head with your arms and hands to protect from blowing debris. Never try to outrun a tornado.

Death & Injuries are most often caused by falling or flying glass and debris.

Prepare a kit with flashlights, battery operated radio, a whistle, and other supplies. See: [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)