

# Severe Weather Awareness Week

Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 13 - 17, 2015



**Are you ready for severe weather?** Each year, HSEM in collaboration with the National Weather Service and 16 State and local agencies and organizations sponsors Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota. The week is designed to refresh, remind and educate everyone about the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to avoid them. It's also a great time to make and practice your emergency plan and **build** or refresh your emergency preparedness kit.

Two of the most important events during Severe Weather Awareness Week are the annual statewide tornado drills when sirens across the state will sound off. These drills are scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.

Outdoor warning sirens and NOAA Weather Radios will sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families.

## **Why Severe Weather Awareness Week?**

According to the National Weather Service, Minnesota experiences an average of 40 tornadoes per year. In 2012, 37 twisters touched down. A record was set in 2010 with 104 tornadoes across the state.

Understanding this threat and knowing what to do when a tornado is approaching can save lives.

Take advantage of Severe Weather Awareness Week to review your own and your family's emergency procedures and prepare for weather-related hazards.

Each day of the week will focus on a different topic:

- Monday — [Alerts and Warnings](#)
- Tuesday — [Severe Weather, Lightning and Hail](#)
- Wednesday — [Floods](#)
- Thursday — [Tornadoes \(with statewide tornado drills\)](#)
- Friday — [Extreme Heat](#)

***Don't forget! The state wide tornado drills are Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 1:45 P.M. and 6:55 P.M.***