



CITY OF KEARNEY **PRESS RELEASE** ***For Immediate Release***

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Severe Weather Awareness Week

The **National Weather Service** and the **Nebraska Emergency Management Agency** have announced March 27-31 as **Severe Weather Awareness Week** in Nebraska. A statewide tornado safety drill will be conducted during the morning of March 29 between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. **NOTE:** The alternate dates scheduled due to any possible inclement weather on Wednesday are March 30 and March 31.

All across Nebraska each Emergency Management agency will participate in the tornado safety drill to prepare for the 2017 severe weather season. Schools, hospitals, industries, public facilities and citizens are also encouraged **to test their readiness should a tornado or severe weather event actually occur.**

Local outdoor warning sirens, NOAA Weather Radio alarms, and the Emergency Alert System will be activated to signal the start of the drill. Actions should then be taken **as if it were a real emergency.** The drill will test everyone's readiness for a life threatening severe weather event, such as a tornado. Other severe weather threats that must also be prepared for include: flash flooding, large hail, lightning and damaging winds.

Severe Weather Awareness Week comes before the traditional peak tornado months of May, June, and July in Nebraska. When atmospheric conditions are right, however, tornadoes can occur at any time of the year.

Questions or comments about tornado and severe weather preparedness or the annual drill should be directed to Buffalo County Emergency Management office or the local National Weather Service office in Hastings.

Buffalo County will test the sirens **twice** during the Tornado drill on Wednesday March 29. The County will test again sounding the sirens **twice** on the regular test day on Thursday April 6, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Follow Weather preparedness and education on Facebook at Emergency Management Buffalo County/City of Kearney and Twitter @BuffaloCoNeEM

Link for Tornado activity information for 2016 from the Nebraska Weather Service
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gid/?n=severeawareness>

Check out our web site at www.cityofkearney.org

We are sending this News Release as a service to the news media and citizens of Kearney.

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