

Welcome to Day One of Severe Weather Awareness Week!

Douglas County Emergency Management, Topeka National Weather Service, and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management have proclaimed March 6-10, 2017 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Douglas County and Kansas.

According to the Storm Prediction Center, the US experienced 971 tornadoes in 2016. Kansas experienced 102 of those tornadoes. Now is the time to get prepared. It only takes 1 storm to impact your day or change your life.

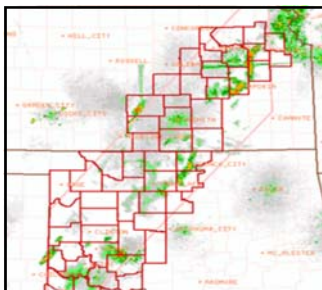
Over the next several days we will examine different severe weather threats and challenge you and your family to get prepared for the upcoming severe weather season. Post questions or tips on how you are prepared on our Facebook page or through Twitter.

WATCHES

WATCHES are issued when a specific hazard is possible during a specific time range.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH:

Issued when the National Weather Service believes thunderstorms are likely to develop, become severe and produce large hail and/or damaging winds.



TORNADO WATCH:

Issued when the National Weather Service believes thunderstorms are likely to develop, become severe and produce tornadoes and/or large hail and damaging winds.

ACTIONS TO TAKE: Identify where you will be during the watch time frame. Next, determine where you will take cover if a warning is issued. This may be on the road, at home, at work, at school, etc. Stay alert to changing weather conditions.

WARNINGS

WARNINGS are issued when a specific hazard is or is believed to be occurring.



SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING: Issued when a severe thunderstorm is indicated by weather radar or a spotter reports at least 58 mph winds or 1 inch hail.

TORNADO WARNING: Issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.



ACTIONS TO TAKE: Take action immediately! Move to the lowest level of the building to an interior room with no windows. Stay in that room until the thunderstorm has passed.

It's Up to YOU!!

After you have received the warning, YOU must make the decision to seek shelter before the storm arrives. It could be the most important decision you will ever make.



Day One Continued: Getting Weather Alerts

Being prepared for severe weather season is more than knowing terms! You must have more than 1 way to get alerts—no matter where you are. Here are a few suggestions:

OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

- * One of the many methods to warn of impending weather.
- * Intended to alert those in recreational areas or who are outside.
- * There are 43 sirens in Douglas County.
- * The outdoor warning sirens for any or all of the cities in Douglas County are activated when the National Weather Service issues a “Tornado warning” or when a local determination is made that a tornado threat to the area exists.
- * Sirens will sound for 3 minutes, then stop before being activated again. This continues until the warning has ended or moved out of the area.
- * There is NO All Clear siren sound. If you hear the sirens...Take Cover!



NOAA WEATHER RADIOS

Weather radios are a cost effective and reliable method to receive notice of impending weather.

- * Have battery back-up.
- * Equipped with a special alarm tone that will give immediate information about a weather, natural or man-made emergency, or a life-threatening situation.
- * Can be programmed for your specific county.
- * The hearing and visually impaired can get these warnings by connecting weather radios with alarm tones, strobe lights, pagers, bed-shaker's, etc.

PHONE CALL, TEXT & EMAIL!

Douglas County offers a free call notification system which will send weather alerts to you via call, text, and e-mail. Sign up today by visiting <http://bit.ly/DgCoNotification>

LOCAL TV & RADIO STATIONS

Identify your local TV and radio stations. Monitoring local radio and TV along with your weather radio will keep you informed of changing weather conditions. Local media will also provide the “all clear”.

Emergency Alert



Flash Flood Warning this area til
4:30 AM EST. Avoid flood areas.
Check local media. -NWS

WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS (WEA)

Have you received an alert on your phone like this? It's a Wireless Emergency Alert. Most newer phones are equipped to receive these. Find out more about these alerts: http://bit.ly/WEA_Alerts

SOCIAL MEDIA AND CELL PHONE APPLICATIONS

Social media can be a good place to find updates and information about ongoing or potential severe weather. Be sure to follow official sources like DCEM, National Weather Service & Local Media. Some cell phone applications also offer alerts for severe weather. No matter what method you use, be sure you have more than one just in case one doesn't work like you expected! Thanks for taking the first step in preparedness!

For more information on Severe Weather Safety/Preparedness or to request a lan review or presentation, contact Douglas County Emergency Management—www.douglascountyks.org—(785) 832-5259—Facebook: www.facebook.com/dgcoem. Twitter: @dgcoem

