



CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

100 Civic Center Parkway
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
952-895-4600 • Fax 952-895-4640
www.burnsville.org/police

Eric Gieseke
Chief of Police



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2016

Contact:

Sgt. David Powers
Burnsville Police Department
O# 952-641-1143
david.powers@burnsvillemn.gov

APRIL 11-15 IS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Two Statewide Tornado Drills Scheduled for Thursday, April 14

Each year, thunderstorms, hail and straight-line winds cause extensive damage throughout Minnesota and the U.S. While severe weather is unpreventable, there are things that can be done to help people prepare.

April 11-15 is Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week. During the week, individuals, families, businesses and schools are encouraged to create or update emergency plans for home and work, and practice an emergency exercise or drill.

Tornado Drills

In addition, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety will be conducting two statewide tornado drills. **Severe weather sirens will be activated at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. on Thursday, April 14 in Burnsville and neighboring communities.** Residents are encouraged to practice their tornado drills at these times.

Sirens

Burnsville utilizes Dakota County's Outdoor Warning System to alert people who are outdoors of severe weather. Dispatchers at the Dakota County Communications Center are responsible for activating sirens based on information from the National Weather Service.

The County's current practice is to activate sirens for all tornado warnings, but they will only sound sirens for severe thunderstorm warnings when winds are forecasted to reach a sustained speed of 70 mph or greater. Sirens can also be used in the event of a hazardous materials incident.

As part of Severe Weather Awareness Week, residents are also encouraged to purchase a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio, and sign up for personal weather alerts from The National Weather Service or other local outlets.

For more information contact Emergency Management Coordinator David Powers at 952-641-1143, visit <http://weatherawareness.dps.mn.gov> or www.burnsville.org/severeweather.