



**CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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Eric Gieseke
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IS APRIL 17-21

Two Statewide Tornado Drills Scheduled for Thursday, April 20

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 17-21 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.

Each day of the week will focus on different weather safety topics:

- Monday, April 17: Alerts and Warnings
- Tuesday, April 18: Severe Weather, Lightning and Hail
- Wednesday, April 19: Floods
- Thursday, April 20: Tornadoes (with statewide tornado drills)
- Friday, April 21: Extreme Heat

Tornado Drills

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety will conduct two statewide tornado drills. Severe weather sirens will sound in a simulated tornado warning in Burnsville and neighboring communities:

- **Thursday, April 20 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.**

Residents are encouraged to practice their tornado drills at these times.

(more)

Sirens

Burnsville utilizes Dakota County's Outdoor Warning System to alert people 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, as well as severe thunderstorms with winds 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.