



POLK COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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Polk County Announces Severe Weather Awareness Week Activities

Des Moines – March 25-29, 2013 has been designated as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa. Severe Weather Awareness Week is an annual event to remind Iowan's that severe weather is part of living in Iowa and that understanding the risks and how to respond to them can save lives.

Daily Topics:

Monday, March 25 – Flash Flooding

Tuesday, March 26 – Warning Reception

Wednesday, March 27 - Tornadoes/Statewide Drill

Thursday, March 28 – Severe Thunderstorms

Friday, March 29 – Family Preparedness

“Our goal is simple, we want to motivate our friends, family and neighbors to be better prepared” said A.J. Mumm, Director of the Polk County Emergency Management Agency. “We ask that individuals and families be better prepared by taking a few simple steps. Have a family emergency plan; put together an emergency supplies kit; and stay informed about severe weather and other emergencies that can occur in your community.”

Two important events are planned for the week:

- **Storm Spotter Class** - The National Weather Service together with the Polk County Emergency Management Agency and Des Moines Area Community College will host a session on severe weather and storm spotting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26. It is free of cost and open to anyone interested in severe weather and the general public is encouraged to attend. The session will be held at the DMACC Ankeny Campus, Building 6 Auditorium.
- **Statewide Tornado Drill** - planned for Wednesday, March 27. The exercise will consist of a simulated tornado watch being issued around 10:00 a.m., followed by a simulated warning at 10:15. The outdoor warning sirens will be activated across Polk County at 10:15 and we encourage all schools, businesses, and governments to participate in concert with this drill. If severe weather threatens on Wednesday the test will be delayed until Thursday.

For more information about severe weather preparedness, visit our web site at

www.polkcountyiowa.gov/emergency-management where you can also find links to our Facebook page and Twitter feed where you can stay up to date on breaking news and preparedness tips for you and your family.

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