

From Tim Isom, the City of Northfield's Emergency Preparedness Leader:

While the weather outside sure doesn't look like Severe Weather season, April 9-13 is Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota. This week is intended to refresh and remind everyone about the severe weather threats present in Minnesota. This is also an excellent time to practice your emergency plan, or create one if you don't have one already. Another task this week would be build or refresh your emergency preparedness kit.

The week's activities:

Monday, April 9 - Alerts and Warnings

Tuesday, April 10 - Severe Weather, Lightning and Hail

Wednesday, April 11 - Floods

Thursday, April 12 - Tornadoes with two statewide tornado drills

Reminder messages will be distributed in the morning on Thursday, April 12

- The first drill allows schools, businesses, and industries to test their sheltering plans.
- The second, evening drill, allows families and businesses with second shifts to practice their sheltering plans.

Important notes for Tornado Drill Day

Postponement or Cancellation

- If real severe weather is a significant threat on or before April 12, any of the six National Weather Service offices that serve Minnesota may postpone the simulated watch and warning for their area to Friday, April 13.
- If the weather threat is continuing into Friday, then the drills may be cancelled. Any postponement or cancellation will be announced through the media.
- NOTE: There is no such thing as an all-clear siren. For more information on sirens, see the Tornado Drill Day link below.

You can find more information on Tornado Drill Day at

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-tornado-drill-day.aspx>)

If you need a downloadable version of the Tornado Drill Day schedule follow this link

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Documents/2018-tornado-drill-day-schedule.pdf>

1:00 p.m. Test Watch

All six weather National Weather Service offices that serve Minnesota will issue a simulated tornado watch. NOAA Weather Radios will activate with the real TOA code.

1:45 p.m. The National Weather Service will issue a simulated tornado warning for Minnesota counties. Note that most cities and counties will activate outdoor warning siren systems. NOAA Weather Radios will activate with the real TOR code.

2:00 p.m. The National Weather Service will issue an "End of Test" message using the Severe Weather Statement product. No alarm on weather radio.

6:45 pm. The National Weather Service offices will issue another simulated tornado warning. NOAA Weather Radios will activate with the real TOR code. Local outdoor warning siren systems will activate.

7:00 pm. The National Weather Service will issue an "End of Test" message using the Severe Weather Statement product. No alarm on weather radio.

Friday, April 15 - Extreme Heat

For more information about Severe Weather Awareness week, please visit the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's website at:

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>