

## **ARE YOU READY for severe weather, including tornadoes?**

**SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK** is April 17-21, 2006.

**TORNADO DRILL DAY** is April 20<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a statewide Tornado Drill at 1:45p.m.

A second Tornado Drill will take place at 6:55p.m. in Sherburne County.

### **ARE YOU READY?**

**Plan.** Create a plan for your family.

- Where will your family gather if a storm is headed your way?
- What types of supplies will you need?
- How will you contact other family members to let them know you are okay?

**Prepare.** Put together an emergency supply kit for your family, including the following:

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Flashlights and extra batteries.
- Battery operated radio.
- Water for family members and pets.
- Canned foods and can opener.
- Protective clothing, blankets.
- Toys for children.

**Practice.** Make sure family members know what to do in an emergency.

- Use the Tornado Drills on April 20<sup>th</sup> to test how quickly your family can respond.

**Stay Informed.**

- Listen to radio and television stations for updated storm information.
- Know what a tornado WATCH and WARNING means.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions.

**Resources:**

- For more information on Severe Weather Awareness Week, check the Homeland Security and Emergency Management website <http://www.hsem.state.mn.us>.
- Check these websites for additional information:
  - Emergency Community Health Outreach (ECHO)  
<http://www.echominnesota.org>
    - Severe Weather poster in Spanish and English  
<http://www.echominnesota.org/QA/show8/tornadolegal.pdf>
  - American Red Cross—Get Prepared <http://www.redcross.org>
    - Severe Thunderstorms  
[http://www.redcross.org/services/prepare/0,1082,0\\_247\\_00.html](http://www.redcross.org/services/prepare/0,1082,0_247_00.html)
    - Tornadoes  
[http://www.redcross.org/services/prepare/0,1082,0\\_248\\_00.html](http://www.redcross.org/services/prepare/0,1082,0_248_00.html)

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Severe Weather and Natural Disasters <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/index.asp>
- The websites of the agencies/organizations listed below will also provide you with information on preparing for emergency situations.

The above information is provided by the Sherburne County Are You Ready Workgroup: Sherburne County Sheriff's Department-Emergency Management, Sherburne County Public Health Department, Becker Police Department, Big Lake Police Department, Elk River Police Department, Caring Rivers United Way, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, ISD #728-Elk River Area Schools, Fairview Northland Hospital, USDA-Farm Service, Elk River Star News, West Sherburne Tribune, and community volunteers.

For more information on the Sherburne County Are You Ready Workgroup, contact Marcia Engvall at Sherburne County Public Health Department 763-241-2750 or 1-800-433-5237.