

Severe Weather Awareness

The week of April 19th thru April 23rd, 2010 is Severe Weather Awareness week in Minnesota. Each day, the State focuses on a different topic to bring attention to the Spring time concerns we face in Minnesota. While you will get more information on each topic from the news media, the National Weather Service and from the State, the LMSC also wanted to remind you that Nature can be dangerous and to be safe!

Monday, April 19th – Thunderstorms, Hail, Straight-Line Winds, and Lighting

- Thunderstorms, hail, straight line winds and heat waves cause extensive damage in MN every year.
- The annual toll from hail alone is about \$1 billion nationally.
- Lightning kills and injures more people than any other summer weather threat!
- 47 lightning fires took place in homes and business structures in 2007, resulting in damages of about \$2.3 million.

Tuesday, April 20th - Severe Weather Warnings

- Severe weather warnings are issued to the public by the National Weather Service.
- Topics include the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and NOAA all-hazards weather radio.
- Do you have a NOAA weather radio? Do you know what each alert means?

Wednesday, April 21st – Floods and Flash Floods

- In 1997, floods on the Red River and the Minnesota River affected 58 Minnesota counties, resulting in the largest Presidential disaster declaration in state history.
- The cost of response and recovery was estimated at \$545 million dollars.
- Each spring, there is a risk of flooding. Do you know where low lying rivers and river crossings exist? Do you watch for changes in the height of the water, and an increase in flow?

Thursday, April 22nd - Tornadoes; Statewide Tornado Drills

- Minnesota conducts two Tornado drills. The first drill is statewide at 1:45 p.m. to allow schools, business, hospitals and other organizations to practice their emergency plans.
- The 2nd drill is at 6:55 p.m. in participating counties and is held to allow families and 2nd shift workers to also practice their plans.
- On this day, practice what to do in the event of a tornado.

Friday, April 23rd - Heat

- Heat-related fatalities outpace deaths in several other weather categories.
- High temperatures can quickly cause heat exhaustion, especially in children and elderly persons.
- Based on a national average from 1992-2001, excessive heat claimed 219 lives *each year*.
- By contrast, floods killed 88, tornadoes 57, lightning 52 and hurricanes 15.