

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

Friday, March 26th, 2010

...2010 Severe Weather Awareness Week for Nebraska...

Today marks the final day of Severe Weather Awareness Week for the state of Nebraska. We hope that you have found the information presented this week helpful in your preparation for the severe weather season.

Severe Weather Awareness Week provides the National Weather Service an opportunity to test communication systems and to get potentially lifesaving information out to the public. Now is the time for people to review their safety plans and be prepared for severe weather season. The final topic for this week is flooding.

On average, more people are killed by flooding than by any other single severe weather hazard, including tornadoes, lightning, and hurricanes. Most of these deaths occur when people are trapped in their vehicles, and at night, when it is more difficult to recognize flood dangers. If a Flash Flood Warning is issued, or when flash flooding is imminent or occurring, act quickly to protect you and your family. Get out of areas that are subject to flooding and move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood waters. Low spots such as dips, canyons, and washes are not the places you want to be during flooding. If you are advised to evacuate, do so immediately and remember the following safety tips.

Do not drive if not necessary. If driving is necessary, do not attempt to drive over a flooded road or through flowing water. The depth of the water is not always obvious, and the roadway may no longer be intact under the water. Never drive around a barricade, as they are placed there for your protection. If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and move to higher ground before water sweeps you and your vehicle away. Two feet of quickly moving water is enough to float and sweep away most vehicles, including trucks and sport utility vehicles. If you approach a roadway that is flooded, Turn Around, Don't Drown.

Never try to walk, swim, or play in flood water. You may not be able to determine if there are holes or submerged debris. You may not be able to determine how quickly the water is flowing, and you may be swept away. If the water is moving quickly, as little as six inches of water can knock you off your feet. There is also a danger of hazardous materials polluting the water. Also remember that water is an electrical conductor, and if there are power lines down, there is a possibility of electrocution. Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

Anytime the threat for severe weather exists, stay updated on the latest weather information by going to the National Weather Service Website, <http://www.weather.gov>, or by tuning in to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, or your local television and radio station. Make sure to watch for signs for approaching storms, such as darkening skies, increasing winds, flashes of lightning, and thunder.

More information about Severe Weather Awareness Week can be found at:
<http://www.weather.gov/omaha>.