



Emergency Operations Center
422 5th Avenue, Suite 303
Madison, MN 56256

April 7th, 2020

Press Release

2020 Severe Weather Awareness Week

Dates: Monday April 13th – Friday April 17th

There are a few things humans cannot control, and one of them is mother nature. Each year, local and state Emergency Management and Homeland Security offices in collaboration with the National Weather Service and 16 State and local agencies and organizations sponsors Severe Weather Awareness Week (SWAW) in Minnesota. The week is designed to refresh, remind and educate everyone about the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to prepare to deal with them. It is also a great time to make and practice your emergency plan and build or refresh your emergency preparedness kit.

Each day of the week focuses on a different weather safety topic:

- **Monday:** Alerts & Warnings
- **Tuesday:** Severe Weather, Lighting and Hail
- **Wednesday:** Floods
- **Thursday:** Tornadoes (with statewide tornado drills)
- **Friday:** Extreme Heat

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic which has severely affected our area and nation, Lac qui Parle County will be limiting participation in this year's SWAW events to a single radio interview, press release, and social media post in order to continue focusing on the COVID-19 hazard that is occurring. **Therefor county tornado sirens WILL NOT sound on Thursday, April 16th, nor will a test Emergency Message be sent from our LENS system.** This will reduce emergency messaging and potential mixed communications that are being conveyed to the public during this substantial time of crisis.

Your family and employer are still encouraged to be aware of severe weather hazards during this summer season and to ensure plans are in place for sheltering and having an emergency kit. If you are interested in additional information, please visit the State of Minnesota's Main Weather Safety Page: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/default.aspx> or the SWAW Page: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>.

Stay Prepared, Stay Aware, Stay Safe
Lac qui Parle County Emergency Management

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For questions, please contact:

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