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# NEWS RELEASE

**March 23, 2015 – For Immediate Release**

## **Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 23-27**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque is promoting Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 23-27, 2015, an annual event that reminds Iowans of the risks of severe weather hazards such as floods, tornadoes, and severe thunderstorms.

Each year, people are killed or seriously injured by severe weather, despite advance warning. Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the National Weather Service (NWS) have designated the last full week of March as an opportunity to provide Iowans a better understanding of the state's warmer-weather hazards, the risks, and how to respond to them to save lives.

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management encourages people to make a family communications plan in case of emergency, build an emergency supply kit, and be aware of current conditions. Aside from checking the weather forecast regularly, consider obtaining a NOAA Weather Radio and subscribing to an emergency alert communication system. The City of Dubuque offers a CodeRED Emergency Notification system, a high-speed phone communication service for emergency notifications and other important messages, including weather-related emergencies. To sign up for CodeRED notifications, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/codered](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/codered). You can also subscribe to various phone or e-mail emergency alerts from the National Weather Service at [www.weather.gov/subscribe](http://www.weather.gov/subscribe).

Additionally, you can sign up and create a Safety Profile at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com) to give 9-1-1 call takers and first responders valuable information about your household to be better protected in an emergency. This information can save valuable seconds or even minutes during an emergency.

A storm spotter training class will be held on Tuesday, March 24, at the Dubuque County Emergency Responder Training Facility, 14928 Public Safety Way, from 6:30 p.m.-

8:30 p.m. This free class is open to the public and covers severe weather hazards including thunderstorms and tornadoes. For more information, call Tom Berger at 563-589-4170.

On Wednesday, March 25, the Dubuque County Emergency Management Agency and area communities will be participating in the State Wide Tornado Drill coordinated by the National Weather Service and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division. The drill will begin with a test Tornado Watch at 10 a.m., followed by a test Tornado Warning sometime between 10:15-10:25 a.m. The City of Dubuque and communities throughout Dubuque County will activate outdoor warning sirens as a component of the drill. Area residents, businesses, and schools are urged to treat the drill as if it were an actual tornado warning.

CityChannel Dubuque will air a severe weather spotter training program on Tuesday, March 24 at 8:30 p.m. The program can also be viewed online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/media](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/media).

For more information and tips on severe weather preparation, check out [www.cityofdubuque.org/severeweather](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/severeweather) or [www.beready.iowa.gov](http://www.beready.iowa.gov).

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