

March 10, 2011

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Statewide Storm Siren Drill Today, 1:30 p.m.**

The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management will participate in a statewide storm siren drill today, March 10, at 1:30 p.m. During the drill, Emergency Management officials will activate storm sirens in Springfield and urbanized areas of Greene County. The statewide drill is coordinated by the State Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service, in observance of Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 7-11.

Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Office of Emergency Management, urges area residents, businesses, and schools to treat today's storm siren drill as if it were an actual emergency, and practice moving to designated tornado shelters in lower levels of buildings, away from windows and glass doors.

Nicholls also encourages residents to purchase and check the batteries in weather alert radios, which notify owners when storm warnings are issued in their area.

For more comprehensive disaster preparedness, Nicholls recommends enrollment in two training programs offered through the Office of Emergency Management: Hometown Ready, a certification program designed for businesses, schools, churches and other organizations; and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a disaster prevention and response skills program for individuals.

"By focusing on education, planning, notification and response strategies, we hope to increase our community's resilience against disasters," said Nicholls.

For more information about Hometown Ready or CERT, call the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management at 417-869-6040, or visit [www.greenecountymo.org/oem](http://www.greenecountymo.org/oem).

For more information about the statewide storm siren drill, call Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management, at 417-869-6040; or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-224-5510.



**Office of Emergency Management**

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417-869-6040 • [greencountymo.org/oem](http://greencountymo.org/oem)