

The week of March 21-25 is Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa. There are two specific events taking place that we would like to highlight and encourage participation.

Storm Spotter Class - Tuesday, March 22 from 7:00-8:30 pm

Polk County Emergency Operations Center, 1907 Carpenter Ave., Des Moines, IA

Multimedia presentation containing information about identifying/reporting severe weather, severe weather safety, severe weather climatology in Iowa, thunderstorm types and threats, and more. Runs 90 to 120 minutes in length, is open to the public, and free of charge.

Instructors are National Weather Service Meteorologists – Questions and discussions are encouraged!

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/storm-spotter-class-registration-22508078268>

Iowa Statewide Tornado Drill Wednesday, March 23 (In case of severe weather, Thursday March 24th is the backup day)

10:00 AM – Test Tornado Watch issued for Iowa. The test watch will tone alert on NOAA All Hazards Radio.

10:15 AM – NWS Des Moines issues test tornado warnings. The test warning will alert on NOAA Weather Radio and Outdoor Warning Sirens will be activated.

10:30-10:35 AM – NWS issues a Severe Weather Statement to terminate the test warnings.

11:00 AM – Test tornado watch expires.

We encourage everyone to participate in the drill by practicing the implementation of your severe weather plan (alert and notification, internal communications and coordination, seeking your place of refuge, and staying informed of threat conditions).

Watch: A National Weather Service product indicating that a particular hazard is possible, i.e., that conditions are more favorable than usual for its occurrence. A watch is a recommendation for planning, preparation, and increased awareness (i.e., to be alert for changing weather, listen for further information, and think about what to do if the danger materializes).*

Warning: A product issued by National Weather Service local offices indicating that a particular weather hazard is either imminent or has been reported. A warning indicates the need to take action to protect life and property. The type of hazard is reflected in the type of warning (i.e., tornado warning, blizzard warning, etc.).*

*Definitions taken from the National Weather Service Website: <http://www.weather.gov/>



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