



**CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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*Eric Gieseke*  
Chief of Police



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**APRIL 21-25 IS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK**  
*TWO STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILLS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 24*

Each year, thunderstorms, hail and straight-line winds cause extensive damage throughout Minnesota and the U.S. While severe weather is unpreventable, there are things that can be done to help people prepare.

April 21-25 is Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week. During the week, individuals, families, businesses and schools are encouraged to create or update emergency plans for home and work, and practice an emergency exercise or drill.

In addition, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety will be conducting two statewide tornado drills. **Severe weather sirens will be activated at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. on Thursday, April 24 in Burnsville and neighboring communities.** Residents are encouraged to practice their tornado drills at these times.

Burnsville utilizes Dakota County's Outdoor Warning System to alert people who are outdoors of severe weather. While Burnsville owns and maintains 15 of its own sirens, dispatchers at the Dakota County Communications Center are responsible for activating them based on information from the National Weather Service. **The County's current practice is to activate sirens for Severe Thunderstorm Warnings as well as Tornado Warnings.** Sirens can also be used in the event of a hazardous materials incident.

As part of Severe Weather Awareness Week, residents are also encouraged to purchase a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio, and sign up for personal weather alerts from The National Weather Service or other local outlets. These timely notifications allow people to obtain severe weather information as it takes place.

*For more information contact Emergency Management Coordinator Don Stenger at 952-895-4638, visit <http://weatherawareness.dps.mn.gov> or [www.burnsville.org/severeweather](http://www.burnsville.org/severeweather).*

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