



City of Lake Geneva POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Michael S. Rasmussen

Asst Chief Michael B. Reuss

626 Geneva Street

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin 53147

Phone: (262) 248-4455 Fax: (262) 248-4809

2011 Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week

Governor Walker has proclaimed April 11-15, 2011 as Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin. The campaign is intended to remind people of the dangers associated with tornadoes, thunderstorms, flooding and hail and to encourage citizens to take protective safety measures.

The City of Lake Geneva Police, Fire, and EMS departments, in conjunction with the communications center, will participate in a statewide simulated tornado/severe weather warning and will test the severe weather warning siren at 1:20 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2011.

The National Weather Service will issue mock tornado watches and warnings. If actual severe weather occurs anywhere in the state on April 14th, the tornado drill will be postponed until Friday, April 15, 2011 with the watch/warnings issued at the same time. Below are the scheduled times for the mock watches/warnings for the Lake Geneva area:

1:00 pm - **Mock tornado watch** for all of Wisconsin

1:20-1:25 pm - **National Weather Service Milwaukee issues mock tornado warning** for Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Marquette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha Counties.

2:00 pm – **End of mock tornado watch/warning drill**

With a little time and effort, families can prepare for severe hazards affecting your area. Educate yourself about tornadoes, flash floods and thunderstorms and the damage they can cause. Developing a family disaster plan is the first step. Storm sirens are an effective measure in notifying the community of dangerous weather if you are outside and in hearing distance. Severe Weather Awareness Week will recognize the importance storm sirens and of NOAA Weather Radios, a critical component of any disaster plan.

Follow these basic steps to develop a family disaster plan:

- ***Gather information about hazards***

In addition to your local emergency management agency (EMA), you may contact the nearest National Weather Service office or the American Red Cross. Find out what type of

disasters could occur and how you should respond. Learn the community's warning signals and evacuation plans.

- ***Meet with your family to create a plan***

Discuss the information you have gathered. Pick two places to meet: a spot right outside your home for an emergency, such as fire, and a place away from your neighborhood in case you cannot return home. Choose an out-of-state friend as your "family check-in contact" for everyone to call if the family gets separated. Discuss what you would do if advised to evacuate.

- ***Implement your plan***

1. Post emergency telephone numbers by phones.
2. Install safety features in your house, such as a NOAA Weather Radio, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
3. Inspect your home for potential hazards such as items that can move, fall, break or catch fire and correct them.
4. Have family members learn basic safety measures such as CPR and first-aid; how to use a fire extinguisher; and, how and when to turn off water, gas and electricity in your home.
5. Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1 or your local Emergency Medical Services number.
6. Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your family's needs for at least three days.
7. Assemble an emergency preparedness kit with items you may need in case of an evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as backpacks or duffel bags. Keep important family documents in a waterproof container. Keep a smaller disaster supplies kit in the trunk of your car. A disaster supplies kit should include a three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food which will not spoil; one change of clothing and footwear per person; one blanket or sleeping bag per person; a first-aid kit (including prescription medicines); emergency tools (including a battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a portable radio, flashlight, and plenty of extra batteries); an extra set of car keys and cash; and, special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.

- ***Practice and maintain your plan***

Ask questions to make sure your family remembers meeting places, phone numbers and safety rules. Conduct drills. Test your weather radio and smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Test and recharge your fire extinguishers according to the manufacturer's instructions. Replace stored water and food every six months.