



Kingman County Commission

Fred Foley, County Commissioner District #1
Carol F. Voran, County Commissioner District #2
John Steffen, County Commissioner District #3

Kingman County Courthouse, 130 N. Spruce, Kingman KS 67068
Office of the County Clerk: Phone: 620-532-2521 / Fax: 620-532-5082

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Feb. 14, 2014

For more information, contact Nancy D. Borst, 620-532-2037 / nborst@kingmancoks.com

Statewide tornado drill is March 4

The annual statewide tornado drill will be held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 4. Sirens will sound in Kingman County, said Fred Simon, director of emergency management.

The drill is part of Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 3-7, when all Kansans should once again review their plans and preparations to deal with spring storms, including severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. Free, public storm spotter classes will be held on March 3: 3 p.m. at the Kingman County Activity Center and 6:30 p.m. at the Cunningham Community Center.

According to the National Weather Service, 2013 was the quietest tornado season since 1994. Only 56 tornadoes were reported statewide last year, resulting in no fatalities and only one injury. The longest track tornado occurred in Lyon County on May 19, traveling 9 miles. The strongest tornado was an EF4 in Pawnee County on May 18.

Experts say now is the time to discuss what you and your family would do in case of an immediate weather threat. Develop a plan of action and practice it. If a warning is issued, which indicates severe weather is imminent, remember “Duck” – Down to the lowest level, Under something sturdy, Cover your head, Kee in the shelter until the storm has passed.

Mobile homes are especially dangerous during high wind events and tornadoes. A mobile home overturns or slides with winds between 70 and 100 MPH, and is completely blown away at winds in excess of 110 MPH (the strength of an EF2 tornado). Instead, go to the nearest storm shelter. In many cases, a motor vehicle can be a safer sheltering option than staying in a mobile home, says the NWS.

Kingman County is equipped with numerous warning sirens but remember, these are an outdoor warning system only. The sirens are not intended to replace listening to a weather radio or following local media reports. Those remain the best source for severe weather information.

Take responsibility, listen to the media, take protective action and survive severe weather to enjoy the good weather that also comes this time of year.

###