



Kingman County Commission

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Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 14-18

Spring is knocking on the door and this year's Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week will be March 14-18.

The annual tornado safety drill will be held but the time for this year's drill has been moved from daytime to evening. Weather permitting, the drill will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15. Kingman County Emergency Manager Fred Simon said all tornado sirens in the county will sound at that time.

"This will allow families to practice their home plans, or develop one," said Simon.

"Make a Plan" and "Build a Kit" are phrases that encourage families to be prepared. Each family should have a plan for what they will do in any emergency, including a meeting place outside the home. A disaster kit should include supplies such as water, food, blankets and medicine in case there is severe damage and power is out for an extended period.

In the case of severe weather, including tornadoes, Simon said to remember and teach your children to "DUCK" – Down to the lowest level, Under something sturdy, Cover your head and Kee in the shelter until the storm has passed.

Kansas had 126 reported tornadoes in 2015 including one in Kingman County, according to the National Weather Service. The most tornadoes in one month was 63 in May. The most in one day was 22 on May 6. The season was lengthy, with 229 days between the first and last reported tornadoes of the season.

"This shows that we must always be aware and prepared," Simon said. "Having a severe weather plan and disaster kit is a good place to start. If you need help with these, it is available on the Kingman County website at www.kingmancoks.org under the Emergency Manager's Department link."

This year the National Weather Service held its "Storm Fury on the Plains" weather program at the Kingman Theater on Feb. 22. This was a huge success from previous years, with more than 85 people in attendance.

"The Weather Service was very pleased with the new venue for the program, and I would personally like to thank the Kingman Theater and the volunteers who worked that evening to help make the program a success," he said. "The Weather Service is very excited about returning to your facility next year."

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