NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN FOR SEVERE WEATHER

According to the National Weather Service statistics for tornadoes in Oklahoma, May is the month with the most tornadoes in our state— with the second most tornadoes occurring in April. That means now is a great time to develop an emergency plan and assemble a disaster kit.

CREATE A PLAN

Creating an emergency plan for your family can help to ensure your safety when severe weather occurs. Here are tips to help you plan:

- Have a family meeting to discuss how your family will respond to an emergency.
- Determine the area of your home where you will take cover.
- Purchase an NOAA all-hazards radio and install an app on your smart phone.
- Pick two meeting places, one near your home and one outside of your neighborhood.
- Take a basic first aid and CPR class
- Teach all of your family members how and when to call 9-1-1.

PREPARE A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

Store items in your “go” kit in an easy to carry bag. Make sure to include:

- Three day supply of water (one gallon per person per day)
- Three to five day supply of non-perishable food with a non-electric can opener
- A change of clothing, rain gear, and sturdy shoes for each member of the family
- Blankets, bedding or sleeping bags
- A first aid kit and prescription medication
- An extra pair of glasses or contact lenses and solution

OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

The City of Midwest City’s outdoor warning devices, or warning sirens, are intended to alert you when you are outdoors and unaware of the threat of tornadoes.

While the sirens may be heard indoors in some areas of the community, they are not meant to alert you when you are indoors. Newer homes are very well insulated and may prevent you from hearing the sirens when you are inside. Noise from televisions and radios can muffle the sound of the siren or make it impossible to hear. The sirens are not intended to wake you when you are sleeping.

When you are indoors, it is very important for you to stay weather aware by monitoring local news, your NOAA radio and/or the notifications on your smart phone app.

When conditions are present for the City of Midwest City to sound the outdoor warning sirens, it is the last opportunity to warn you that a tornado has been spotted by human eye or radar and is moving toward our city. When the sirens are sounded, take shelter immediately.

You may hear the sirens sound multiple times because when conditions warrant, warning sirens are sounded for each separate storm or when the same storm continues to be a threat as it moves through our community.

The City of Midwest City does not sound an all clear siren.

The sirens are now tested every Saturday at noon except when the possibility of severe weather is present or when special events are planned.
TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE
TORNADOES & HIGH WINDS

Tornadoes and high winds can damage buildings, knock down power lines, and destroy vehicles but the biggest danger from a tornado is flying and falling debris. Even small objects can cause serious injuries when blown by tornado winds. Here are three basic guidelines that are keys to tornado survival:

GET IN: Get as far inside a sturdy building as you can. Put as many walls between you and the tornado as possible. Stay away from doors and windows.

GET DOWN: If you can’t get underground, go to the lowest floor of a well-constructed building.

COVER UP: Protect your body, especially your head, from debris and falling objects. Use pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, a mattress, and or bike helmets as cover.

Unless you live in a mobile home, it is generally safer during a tornado warning to take shelter in your home or workplace than to leave to seek shelter elsewhere. This is called “sheltering in place.”

Like many other cities, Midwest City does not have public shelters because being in a vehicle is one of the most dangerous places to be in a tornado and risking a drive to a shelter could be deadly. We encourage you to stay informed about the weather and have a plan to shelter-in-place at home or work.

If you have a storm shelter at your home, register it on our website (midwestcityok.org) so our emergency crews know how to find you should there ever be a disaster.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2 — May 8 is when Early bird season passes to Reno Swim and Slide are on sale at the Nick Harroz Community Center, 200 N. Midwest Blvd. We’ll also be booking birthday parties and private events. You can book your special occasion by calling 739-1293.

Saturday, April 18 is Cruise In for Coffee at Santa Fe Steakhouse parking lot from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Browse all makes of new and classic cars and bikes. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and socialize with other collectors and admirers! The event is free and there are no entry fees.

Saturday, May 9 is Covered in Color at the Charles J. Johnson Central Park in Town Center Plaza. Save the date and watch for more details!

You can find our list of events on the calendar on our website at midwestcityok.org.

CENSUS 2020

This month every household in our city will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or mail. Responses will be accepted as soon as you receive your invitation to respond.

You will be asked a few simple questions like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home, including children. You will not be asked for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties.

We have more census information and resources on our website at midwestcityok.org.

CENSUS 2020: EVERYONE COUNTS!

Whether it is information about holiday trash collection, City festivals and events, street closings, or other City news, there are several ways to Stay Connected to what’s happening in MWC. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Next Door and on our website at midwestcityok.org where you’ll find our latest news and calendar of events. You can also sign up for our monthly e-newsletter on our website. And don’t forget to download the MyMWC app!