

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **National Safety Council Severe Weather Tips**

(OMAHA, Neb., April 1, 2009) – Spring brings flowers, green grass and the threat of severe weather. Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 6 to 10 and the National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter, is offering safety tips to keep people out of dangerous situations. Severe weather and thunderstorm hazards such as lightning, flash floods and tornadoes are common during the spring and summer months in Nebraska. By being prepared and knowing the following safety tips, families can recognize the threats and be ready to act if necessary.

- Develop a plan for you and your family at home, school, work and when outdoors. Have frequent drills.
- Know the county you live in as storm warnings are issued based on counties.
- Identify a safe place to take shelter, preferably underground or in a basement, in the event of a tornado warning. If a basement is not available, move to the lowest floor to a small interior room or hallway, away from windows.
- Purchase a weather radio with a battery back-up.
- Check the weather forecast before leaving for outdoor activities. Watch for signs of approaching storms and postpone activities if necessary.
- Stay out of boats and away from the water if a thunderstorm is approaching.
- Avoid using the telephone and any electric appliances during a severe storm. Do not take a bath or a shower.
- When driving, avoid low water crossings and use alternate routes to avoid flood prone areas. Leave your car immediately if it stalls in flood waters.
- If severe weather threatens, check on the elderly, young children and the physically or mentally disabled.

For severe weather tips in the workplace, visit  
<http://www.safenebraska.org/news/documents/spring2009layout.pdf>.

#### **About the National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter**

Founded in 1924, the National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter, is a private non-profit, community based organization that promotes safety and health by providing programs, resource services and education to individuals and organizations to prevent both the personal and economic loss associated with injuries, accidents and health hazards wherever they exist. Under the leadership of the National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter, the greater Omaha metro area was recently designated a Safe Community by the United Nation's World Health Organization (WHO). For more information, visit [www.safenebraska.org](http://www.safenebraska.org).