

## **WHEN SEVERE WEATHER IS IN YOUR AREA.....**

### **SIRENS**

When a tornado warning has been issued by the National Weather Service, sirens will only be activated within the National Weather Service polygon area – **not the entire county**. These polygon boxes are diagrams on radar maps showing specific areas that could be affected based on weather data, wind direction and speed. If you hear the sirens in your area, take shelter and listen for additional information via portable radio, weather radio, etc. There is no “all clear” siren; therefore, if you hear the siren sound again, this means the threat of severe weather is still in your area.

### **WEATHER RADIO**

Sirens are a great outdoor notification tool, but may not be heard indoors or rural areas. For this reason a weather radio is recommended for each home, business, cabin or camper. Weather radios can be programmed for the county you are in with warnings received day or night. Weather radios have a battery backup so if your electricity goes out, you will still receive notifications.

### **EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS**

Emergency Notification Systems will contact you by phone of a Tornado Warning in your area. Notifications go out the same as the sirens, by the polygon area observed by the National Weather Service. To sign up for this service go to [www.co.nicollet.mn.us](http://www.co.nicollet.mn.us) “Alerts Sign Up”. Don’t live in Nicollet County? Contact your local Emergency Management Office or go to the county website to see if there is a notification system available. Weather apps are another way you can receive notifications. Check to see what app may work for you.

### **WHEN A STORM HAS AFFECTED YOU**

If you have been affected by storms or floods, we ask that you report this information to our office. This will help us get a better understanding of the affected areas and the amount of damages received in our county. If possible, include photos of damaged areas.

**For more information, contact the Nicollet County Emergency Management Office.**