



MEDIA RELEASE

From: Shane Shields, City Manager
Date: March 18, 2020
Re: **SEVERE WEATHER SEASON**

Are you prepared for severe weather? With tomorrow being the first day of Spring 2020 and the possibility of severe weather, it's a good time to talk about sirens, shelters, awareness, information resources and pre-planning.

Take shelter. If you hear a tornado siren, immediately take shelter and get more information about the storm. The City's outdoor eight-siren system is located across the City in various locations, including Wellington Lake. The City's system is tested every Monday, at noon, weather permitting.

Tornado/Storm Shelter Information. With the closing of Sumner Community Hospital, there is one facility available to the public as a storm shelter on a 24-hour basis: Wellington Health & Rehabilitation. However, it is currently unavailable due to COVID-19 restricted visitor access. Residents are encouraged to stay home during all types of severe weather. Traveling is extremely dangerous and exposes residents to the very hazard they are trying to avoid.

Personal Preplanning. Personal preparedness limits risk and anxiety. Develop a plan, practice that plan, and make sure all family members and group members are aware of the plan. If travel is necessary, the decision to relocate must be made early in an event and should include the pre-event identification of an appropriate shelter site, preferably with other individuals, friends, family members, etc. This pre-planned location must always be available, or availability must be verifiable well in advance of the event.

Awareness is a Critical Factor. Knowing of a potential severe weather threat is critical and there are a variety of information sources available to provide warnings. These sources include programmable all-hazards radios, notification systems from local television and radio stations for computers, telephones, various electronic devices, internet and local broadcast media.

For more detailed information, check out our website at www.cityofwellington.net and click on "Residents" or "How Do I?" and then "Tornado/Storm Shelter Info". We wish everyone a safe and fun spring season.