



# The Ozark Ambassador

National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office Springfield, Missouri



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Ozark Ambassador Team	

**Kelsey Angle**  
*Meteorologist in Charge*

**Steve Runnels**  
*Warning Coordination Meteorologist*

**Vacant**  
*Science and Operations Officer*

**Kyle Perez**  
*Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador Leader and Newsletter Editor*

## Spring Weather Websites

[NWS Springfield Weather Story](http://www.weather.gov/sgf/weatherstory)  
www.weather.gov/sgf/weatherstory

[NWS Springfield Situation Report](http://www.weather.gov/sgf/sitrep)  
www.weather.gov/sgf/sitrep

[Hazardous Weather Outlook](http://www.weather.gov/crh/ghwo?sid=sgf)  
www.weather.gov/crh/ghwo?  
sid=sgf

[NWS Springfield Severe Weather](http://www.weather.gov/sgf/embrief)  
www.weather.gov/sgf/embrief

[Storm Prediction Center](http://www.spc.noaa.gov)  
www.spc.noaa.gov

## Having a Plan

Make a plan today. Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find.

While there are warnings for many types of potential disasters, many emergencies and disasters occur without any warning. Since you can't predict where you will be for disasters, it is important to have plans and supplies for the locations you and your household go to regularly. Planning ahead will ensure that you and your household will know what to do and have the supplies you need to be safe wherever you are.

Individuals and households should consider the locations they frequent; find out what plans are available for these locations, and customize their personal and household plans based on what household members would do if an emergency occurred while they were at that location.

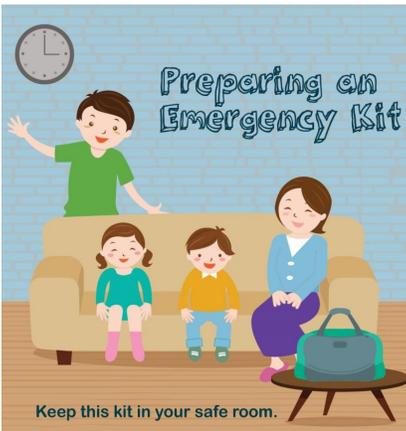
## Being Prepared this Spring



## Building an Emergency Kit

Once you take a look at the basic items, consider what unique needs your family might have, such as supplies for pets, or seniors.

After an emergency, you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for at least 72 hours. A disaster supply



kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. After assembling your kit remember to maintain it so it's ready when needed:

- Keep canned food in a cool, dry place
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers
- Replace expired items as needed
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change.

# Severe Storm and Tornado Safety

## Knowing the Difference between a Watch and a Warning

**Tornado Watch Means **BE PREPARED.** Tornadoes May Form.**

Plan where to take shelter if needed

Be aware of updates for your area

Stay weather-ready



weather.gov

**Tornado Warning Means **TAKE ACTION!** A Tornado is Expected.**

Take shelter indoors immediately

If driving, find the nearest shelter

Check forecast updates



weather.gov

## Sheltering from a Tornado

If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (such as a closet or interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck. Do not open windows. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, media, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instruction.

**Know Where to Go** 

*When Sheltering from a Tornado*



Top floor rooms **DO NOT** protect you.

Exterior rooms and rooms with windows **DO NOT** protect you.

**NO PLACE OUTSIDE** is safe from a tornado.

If you have no basement, move to an interior room with no windows.

Quickly move to your basement and bring your emergency supply kit.



weather.gov/safety/tornado

## Shelter for People with Access and Functional Needs

- If you are in a wheelchair, get away from windows and go to an interior room of the house. If possible, seek shelter under a sturdy table or desk. Do cover your head with anything available, even your hands.
- If you are unable to move from a bed or a chair and assistance is not available, protect yourself from falling objects by covering up with blankets and pillows.
- If you are outside and a tornado is approaching, get into a ditch or gully. If possible, lie flat and cover your head with your arms.

## After the Storm—Safety Tips

**After the Storm**

Check the forecast to make sure the threat has ended

Contact loved ones by text or social media

Listen to local officials

Use flashlights, not candles

Watch for debris or downed powerlines



weather.gov

- Keep listening to NOAA Weather Radio, the media, and local authorities for updated information.
- If you are trapped, cover your mouth with a cloth or mask to avoid breathing dust. Try to send a text, bang on a pipe or wall, or use a whistle instead of shouting.
- Stay clear of fallen power lines or broken utility lines.
- Do not enter damaged buildings until you are told that they are safe.
- Save your phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messaging or social media to communicate with family and friends.
- Be careful during clean-up. Wear thick-soled shoes, long pants, and work gloves.

# Flood Safety

## Difference between a Watch and a Warning

### FLOOD WARNING

A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is **happening** or will happen soon. Some roads will be **flooded**.

**Move** to higher ground.  
**Never drive** through flooded roads.

**take action.**

### FLOOD WATCH

A Flood Watch is issued when flooding is possible.

Stay tuned to radio/TV, follow **weather.gov** and be ready to seek higher ground.

Learn more at **weather.gov/flood**.

**be prepared.**

## What to do During a Flood—Safety Tips

- Depending on where you are, and the impact and the warning time of flooding, go to the safe location that you previously identified.
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Never drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.
- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.
- If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, then stay inside. If water is rising inside the vehicle, then seek refuge on the roof.
- If trapped in a building, then go to its highest level. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising floodwater. Go on the roof only if necessary.

**NEVER DRIVE THROUGH FLOOD WATERS**

Most flood fatalities occur in vehicles

12 inches of water can sweep a car off the road

weather.gov/flood

**Play in the Pool, Not in Floodwaters!**

Floodwaters can contain chemicals, sewage, and disease

Unseen underwater debris can be sharp and cause injury

Water depth can change unexpectedly (storm drains, washed-out roads)

weather.gov/flood

## Returning Home After a Flood

- Listen to authorities for information and instructions. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Avoid driving, except in emergencies.
- Snakes and other animals may be in your house. Wear heavy gloves and boots during cleanup.
- Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock.
- Avoid wading in floodwater, which can contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.
- Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery **ONLY** outdoors and away from windows.

**COMING HOME after a flood**

- Your home may be contaminated with mold or sewage—wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, and goggles during cleanup.
- Make sure the electricity and gas are shut off to avoid fire or getting hurt. Have an electrician check the house before turning the power back on.
- Photograph flood damage for insurance purposes.
- Contact your insurance agent as soon as possible to talk through your options.

FEMA

# Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors

## Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador Spotlight

Organization: Cherokee County Kansas Weather Nerds

Facebook—Education/Outreach Group

Ambassador Since—April 2019



The Cherokee County Kansas Weather Nerds have been a Weather-Ready Nation (WRN) Ambassador since April 2019. Since then, the Facebook group with a strong following

has quickly become involved in the initiative. The group was initiated by Deborah Carey, the Facebook group Administrator, and fellow friends after identifying the need for quick and easily accessible information during weather events.

Deborah Carey says, "Being a part of the Weather-Ready Nation program has helped us to present a focused and professional network for our community." She spoke very highly of having easy access to sharable graphics. The group is keen on messaging preparation and safety tips ahead of impactful weather. She says "We work to help our community to be prepared by reminding them ahead of time of things such as locations of shelters, emergency kit lists, and preparing emergency plans ahead of time." She went on to say that the information shared with her from the NWS "has given us the ability to fill in gaps in our knowledge so that we can reach out in a more effective manner."

The Cherokee County Kansas Weather Nerds group continues to grow and build a strong preparation and safety foundation for businesses and individuals of Cherokee County. She ended with, "We have more people watching and taking a proactive approach to weather events than ever. If it helps keep even one person safe...we have accomplished...everything!"

## SafePlaceSelfie 2020



If there was one extreme weather preparedness action you want your loved ones to take, what would it be? For many, that one action is to know ahead of time where their safe place is located. On April 8th, 2020, please join the National Weather Service and its Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors to take a "selfie" and post with the hashtag #SafePlaceSelfie.

## WRN Ambassador of Excellence Award 2019

Each year, the National Weather Service and its individual offices recognize an outstanding Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador within their County Warning Area. In 2019,



Senior Age Agency on Aging was given this award for supporting the ideals of the Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador program by promoting the concepts

within the Southwest Missouri COVER organization, sharing NWS safety messages, and participating in the NWS Safe Place Selfie Campaign.

Share success stories

# Be a Force of Nature

Serving as an example

Collaborate with NWS

Help Build a Weather-Ready Nation™

Promoting weather safety

How to become an Ambassador?

Visit [www.weather.gov/wrn/amb-tou](http://www.weather.gov/wrn/amb-tou)



WHAT'S  
NEW?

## Changes at Our Office

### Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholar—Summer 2020

Miles Langfield

The Hollings Scholarship Program provides successful undergraduate applicants with awards that include academic assistance for two years of full-time study and a 10-week, full-time paid internship at a NOAA facility during the summer. The internship provides the scholars with hands-on, practical experience in NOAA-related science, research, technology, policy, management, and education activities.

**Q:** What made you interested in being a part of the STEM field, more specifically meteorology?

**A:** I am a math and science nerd. I always have been, and always will be. My calculus and science courses in high school always interested me the most. Growing up on a farm, weather played a huge role in the success of that farm. Wet seasons, droughts, severe storms, etc. could make or break our crop yield. Therefore, I grew up with a respect for the weather and a yearning to understand the atmosphere. While searching for college majors to pursue, I came upon the meteorology program at Texas A&M University. I discovered that I could combine my passion for math, science, and weather all into one career, and right then and there, I knew it was a no-brainer.

**Q:** What is your dream job after graduating college?

**A:** My dream job after graduating college would be to enter the National Weather Service as a meteorologist. I have had a couple volunteer positions with a couple Weather Forecast Offices in Texas, and I have decided that a career in the National Weather Service is the path I would like to pursue.

**Q:** What interests you the most about your internship opportunity in Springfield, Missouri?

**A:** I grew up on the edge of the Texas Hill Country, or the Balcones Escarpment, an area prone to flash flooding. Flash flooding is the most frequent cause for weather-related deaths in that area. I developed an immense interest in heavy rain events/flash flooding, which led me to take interest in the internship opportunity at the WFO Springfield, Missouri. I knew I wanted a project that dealt with flooding, and a project that I could transfer the knowledge gained to any WFO in the nation. I learned that flash flooding is the most frequent cause for fatalities in the Springfield area as well, and then I knew that this was a far-reaching problem. My project will focus on identifying sensitive flood points within Southeast Kansas and the Missouri Ozarks to improve the accuracy and messaging of flash flood warnings for the Springfield, MO CWA. I hope to transfer everything I learn and gain from this internship towards a future career.

**Q:** What is the craziest weather related phenomenon you have experienced?

**A:** On October 30, 2015, my rural hometown of D'Hanis, TX was hit by an EF-0 tornado. It severely damaged several buildings in the small downtown area and tracked northeast towards my house. At around 3:30am that morning, I was awoken by my dad screaming for me to get downstairs, because the tornado was about to track right over the top of my house. We took shelter, and just as soon as it arrived, it moved off towards the northeast and dissipated. Luckily, not much structural damage was noted to my house or any surrounding buildings. However, a few trees didn't make it.



### New Weather Operations Floor Design

The operations floor at NWS Springfield underwent a renovation in the early part of 2019. The new operations floor design included the addition of new televisions, computer chairs, and computer monitors. The design enhances operations with a large situational awareness display wall. Additionally, the design acts to increase effective communications during warning operations from workstation to workstation. Overall, the design has been well received by our staff at NWS Springfield and continues to enhance daily operations.



### Ways to Receive Warnings

**Getting a warning could save YOUR LIFE**

#01 wireless emergency alerts - WEA  
 #02 weather apps  
 #03 mobile.weather.gov  
 #04 text and email messaging service  
 #05 social media  
 #06 from your family and friends

Use your **mobile device** to get timely weather warnings

mobile.weather.gov

**Download the free FEMA App from your app store.**

Download the FEMA App to receive weather alerts on your phone. Simply provide your location, select the alerts you want to receive, and enable notifications on your phone!

Select the alerts you want to receive!

**Also Available on the FEMA App:**

- Learn Emergency safety tips.
- Mitigate your risk and share alerts.
- Locate open emergency FEMA shelters.
- Also available in Spanish.

Timely delivery of National Weather Service (NWS) weather warnings issued by our offices across the nation is critical to the NWS mission of the protection of life and property. It is very important that you are able to receive warnings and weather information at home and at work. Two of the most effective ways you get can warning information directly from the National Weather Service are through Wireless Emergency Alerts on your mobile phone, and on NOAA Weather Radio.

### How to Submit Storm Reports

There are a variety of ways to report weather to the NWS office in Springfield, MO. There are several of ways to submit your reports including Facebook, Twitter, email, and telephone. Please be sure to include the location of the weather event, e.g. 5 miles northwest of Branson. You may also indicate if you are a trained spotter, a ham radio operator, a member of law enforcement, or other affiliation if applicable. Lastly, feel free to add a picture with your report!

**Submit Your Storm Report**

[weather.gov/Springfield](http://weather.gov/Springfield)

[facebook.com/NWSSpringfield](https://facebook.com/NWSSpringfield)

[@NWSSpringfield](https://twitter.com/NWSSpringfield)

[contact.sgf@noaa.gov](mailto:contact.sgf@noaa.gov)

[MPing](#)