

PRESS RELEASE



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Plano Citizens Urged to Prepare for Severe Weather Season *Severe Storm Season Approaches in North Central Texas*

The City of Plano Department of Emergency Management is urging citizens and businesses to become aware of, and prepare for, the potential hazards of tornadoes, lightning and flooding.

“As we enter into one of two severe storm seasons in North Central Texas citizens and businesses should ensure they have an emergency plan that can be followed should severe weather affect our area,” said Director of Emergency Management Shane Stovall. “One element of this plan is knowing how to receive notifications.”

It is recommended that households and businesses purchase an All Hazards Radio equipped with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology. “These radios can be programmed to receive information specific to threatening and actual events in Collin County and the City of Plano,” said Mr. Stovall.

Understanding Plano’s Outdoor Warning System is also important. It is designed for warning persons who are outdoors of a potential emergency situation. It should not be relied upon as the sole means for warning notification. Once activated, persons should return inside and obtain information from either radio, television, or an All Hazards Radio. Residents **should not** contact 911 to obtain information.

Citizens and businesses should develop a plan for both evacuating and sheltering in place. Depending on the threat, persons may be instructed to take either of these measures. When sheltering in place, identify in advance a safe place in your home or business that is interior and away from windows or external walls. When evacuating, know where you will be going. Ensure all family members are aware of a primary and secondary location for gathering, identified in advance.

“Citizens should ensure they have an emergency supply kit for themselves and their families,” continued Mr. Stovall. “It should include any necessary items for infants, medical needs and pets. The kit should contain enough water, non-perishable foods and supplies to last a minimum of 72-hours. Having personal medical and emergency contact information readily available is also important.”

For detailed information on how to be prepared for severe weather and other emergencies, visit the City of Plano Department of Emergency Management Web page at www.preparedinplano.com. Persons may also contact the Department of Emergency Management at 972-941-5551.

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