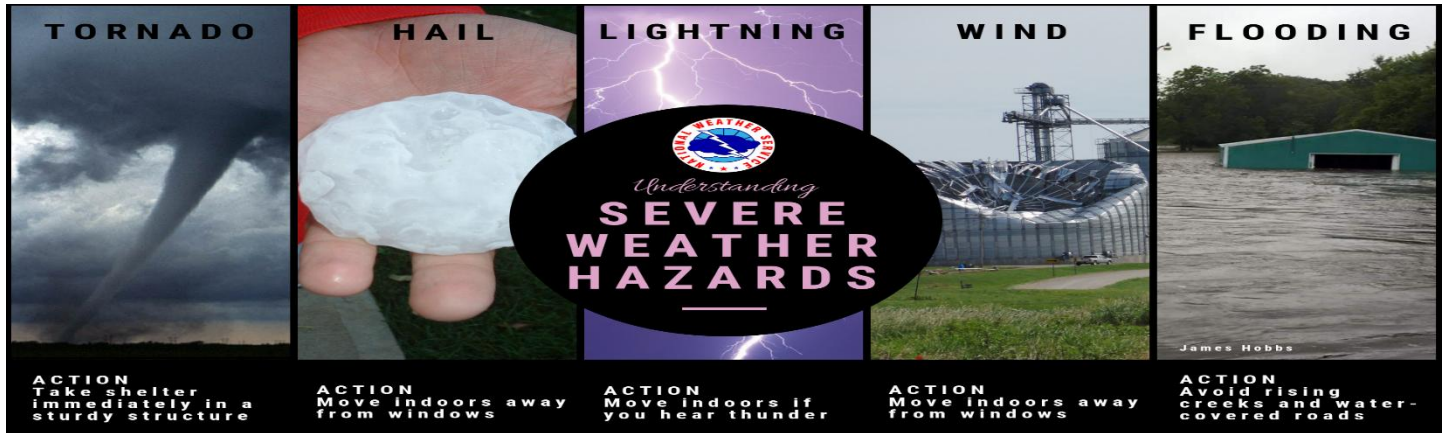


Renville County Emergency Management's Spring Newsletter: 2026



2026 DISASTER RELATED EVENTS

With the lack of snow this Winter, we have not experienced a “traditional” Spring thaw that we tend to see so often. However, that does not mean we are going to put the natural disaster discussion on hold! Keep in mind, disasters can be declared following wind events and tornadoes, thunderstorms, etc.

When does Emergency Management want to hear from you? If your jurisdiction has estimated damages as a result of severe weather or flooding event, that exceed **\$4,100** per category (debris removal, emergency protective measures, roads/bridges, water control facilities, buildings/equipment, utilities, parks/recreation, or staff time), please report that to us. We will compile that information and if our reporting jurisdictions have a combined loss of at least **\$35,800** in uninsured government property, we will report to State HSEM and seek County Board approval for a state of emergency. During a state disaster, damages are paid at the rate of 75% state and 25% local. For a local disaster to reach the federal level (FEMA), there must be **\$71,600** damage to uninsured government property AND **\$11.1 million** in damages statewide. In the event of a federal disaster, damages are paid 75% federal, 25% state, and 0% local.

If your area receives damage from severe storms or flooding, please remember to document locations (with GPS points) and take photographs of areas that receive damage. Before photos (if you have them), during the event (as clean up and repair is taking place), and after the repair-work is done will be needed in the event of a disaster declaration. Track costs as they are incurred and keep invoices together to be used as supporting documentation.

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 13-17, 2026. The topics for this year include:

- *Weather Alerts & Warnings
- *Severe Storms, Lightning, & Hail
- *Floods
- *Tornadoes
- *Extreme Heat

Find detailed information about all of the highlights listed by visiting:

<https://www.weather.gov/mpx/swaw> and
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/programs/weather-safety/severe-weather-awareness-week>

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

WEATHER SPOTTER COURSE OFFERINGS

The National Weather Service will be presenting their Weather Spotter training course in Renville County on **April 22, 2026**.

Choose the option that works best for you:

- 2:00 – 4:00pm at the Government Services Center (105 5th St S) in Olivia, Suite 116.
- 6:30 – 8:30pm at the Renville Community Center (221 Main St N – Renville, MN)

You do not have to pre-register for either option. We hope to see you at one of them!

Spending Time Outdoors?









-  Be Aware of the Forecast Before You Head Out
-  Know How You Will Receive A Warning If One Is Issued
-  Know Where The Nearest Shelter Is Located
-  When Action Needs to be Taken, **DON'T WAIT!**

weather.gov/thunderstorm 

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

By definition, hazard/disaster mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. One of our goals at RCEM is to help communities build, sustain, and improve their capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, technological disasters, or manmade disasters. We strive for safer, less vulnerable communities that have the capacity and knowledge to deal with all hazards or disasters.

In 2026-2027, Renville County's Hazard Mitigation Plan will begin the update process. Watch for more information in the coming months. We hope you will participate in our Hazard Mitigation Plan update process!

Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories	
Thunderstorms (no label) No severe storms expected Lightning/flooding threats exist with all storms	 
Marginal (MRGL) Isolated severe storms possible Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	 
Slight (SLGT) Scattered severe storms possible Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms	 
Enhanced (ENH) Numerous severe storms possible More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Moderate (MDT) Widespread severe storms likely Long-lived, widespread and intense
High (HIGH) Widespread severe storms expected Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense	


NWS defines a severe thunderstorm as measured wind gusts of at least 58 mph, and/or hail of at least one inch in diameter, and/or a tornado. All thunderstorm categories imply lightning and the potential for flooding. Categories are also tied to the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of your location.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

It has been a pleasure working and visiting with the city staff and township officials that have utilized the outreach times. We will be visiting with each city this Spring to finalize the Spring/Summer outreach schedule by location. We are here to support all of our partners in preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation, and training activities. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns, or comments.

Disaster Supply Kit

- ✓ Food and Water
- ✓ Battery Powered Weather Radio
- ✓ Flashlights and Batteries
- ✓ Cell Phone (With Charger or Spare Battery Pack)
- ✓ First Aid Kit
- ✓ Pair of Shoes
- ✓ List of Emergency Contacts
- ✓ Whistle to Signal for Help

weather.gov/thunderstorm 

EM CONTACT INFORMATION

You are receiving this newsletter because we have you on our list as either City Clerk/Administrator or Township Official. If you no longer hold one of these titles, please forward to the appropriate person and contact us so we can make updates to our mailing list.

NEW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE LOCATION:

Renville County Emergency Management
 500 DePue Ave E, Suite 103
 Olivia, MN 56277

If you plan to stop by the office to meet with us, please let us know ahead of time so we are sure to be there when you arrive as the office is not always staffed.

Mike Hennen, Director

Office: 320-523-3838

Cell: 320-522-1481

Email: mike.hennen@renvillecountymn.gov

Samantha Best, Deputy Director

Office: 320-523-3839

Cell: 320-522-2802

Email: samantha.best@renvillecountymn.gov

Visit us on the Renville County website:

[Renville County Emergency Management](http://www.renvillecountymn.gov)

