



## COUNTY OF AMHERST



### Public Information Officer

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### Public Service Announcement

**March 4, 2020**

### Virginia Statewide Tornado Drill

As part of Virginia's Severe Weather Preparedness week, the National Weather Services and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management will be conducting their annual State Wide Tornado Drill on Tuesday, March 17 at 9:45 am. This drill tests public warning systems and is an opportunity for Virginians to prepare for a tornado threat.

Those participating in the drill, including schools and businesses, can turn on their NOAA Weather Radio by 9:40 am and listen to the voice broadcast. Those listening to the broadcast will hear the audible test alert broadcast at 9:45 am. Local radio stations, TV stations and cable outlets will also broadcast the test message via the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Information and resources are available at <https://www.weather.gov/akq/2020VAswpw>.

“When a tornado warning is issued, that isn't the time to figure out how to keep your loved ones, coworkers, friends and neighbors safe. Virginians should use the statewide tornado drill on March 17 as an opportunity to test their tornado emergency procedures and discuss preparedness efforts for these deadly and unexpected storms which can touch down in Virginia throughout the year,” said Virginia Department of Emergency Management State Coordinator Dr. Jeff Stern.

If widespread severe weather threatens the Commonwealth on that date, the drill will be rescheduled for Wednesday, March 18, at 9:45 a.m.

For more information about tornado preparedness, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/features/tornadosafety/index.html>

Additional information may be obtained from Joy Niehaus at [jlniehaus@countyofamherst.com](mailto:jlniehaus@countyofamherst.com) or (434)-946-9400.