

BETter Living ...

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A Reminder to Get Prepared

Are you prepared for a disaster to strike? Kansas Governor Sam Brownback has declared Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week for March 3-9.

We never know when a disaster may occur. By assembling an emergency kit, taking inventory of household possessions, reviewing insurance policies and other steps, the process of recovering from tornadoes, flooding and other severe weather can be eased, said Jamie Rathbun, who is a family and consumer sciences agent with K-State Research and Extension in Ellsworth County.

She, along with other extension agents and specialists around the state, produced, “Get Financially Prepared – Take Steps Ahead of Disaster” available free at Wabaunsee County Extension Office or online at: <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore> (Search for MF 3055).

“Last year (Kansas) had a fairly quiet year by severe weather standards, except the deadly tornado that struck February 28 in Harveyville,” said Kansas climatologist Mary Knapp. “That storm was still active into February 29 when it spawned a number of lethal tornadoes in states to the east.”

Knapp, who is in charge of the state’s Weather Data Library based at K-State, said it’s difficult to predict storms more than seven to 10 days in advance, but one place citizens can check is the Storm Prediction Center <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/>, a part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“Severe Weather Awareness Week is a good reminder that severe weather is a fact of life in Kansas,” she said. “It’s also a reminder that an emergency kit is a good thing to have not only in case of late winter and springtime severe weather, but in case there’s an emergency any time of year.”

More information on emergency preparedness is available at www.ksready.gov, www.eden.lsu.edu www.fema.gov or Wabaunsee County Extension Office. Are you prepared?