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Emergency Warning Enhancement Experimental Expansion

Countryside Emergency Management is providing this information to help inform our residents of these changes that will be used as we begin to enter the 2013 Severe Weather Season.

In order to help inform the population regarding the impact of severe weather warnings the National Weather Service will be expanding the use of enhanced experimental impact warnings to our region. This enhanced experimental impact was implemented in 2012 after a service assessment was completed in 2011 following the devastating impact of tornados that occurred, particularly after the 2011 Joplin, MO EF-5 tornado.

After the service assessment was completed, the findings showed that:

- The majority of people identified local outdoor warning systems as their first source of the warning.
- The majority of people sought confirmation from additional sources before seeking shelter.
- Credible, extraordinary risk signals prompt people to take protective actions.

The goals of these enhanced warnings are to provide additional information to the media and Emergency Management officials, improve public response and decision making and improve societal needs in life-threatening weather events.

Examples of some of the enhanced tags that will be used and that may be communicated include the following Tornado Tags:

TORNADO...RADAR INDICATED

Evidence on radar and near storm environment is supportive, but no confirmation.

TORNADO...OBSERVED

Tornado is confirmed by spotters, law enforcement, debris ball signature, etc.

Tornado Damage Threat Tag

TORNADO DAMAGE THREAT...CONSIDERABLE

When there is credible evidence that a tornado, capable of producing considerable damage, is imminent or ongoing.

TORNADO DAMAGE THREAT...CATASTROPHIC

When a severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage from a tornado is occurring, and will only be used when reliable sources confirm a violent tornado.

Tornado Tags for Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

TORNADO...POSSIBLE

A severe thunderstorm has some potential for producing a tornado although forecaster confidence is not high enough to issue a Tornado Warning.