



# Olathe Fire Department

## News Release

George Bentley, Fire Chief

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### **SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK: Are You And Your Family Prepared?**

For immediate release: Thursday, March 06, 2008

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(OLATHE, KS) – The Olathe Fire Department challenges you to prepare and plan for severe weather during “Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week,” March 10-14, 2008.

**In 2007, Kansas reported 137 tornadoes – that’s 80 more than Kansas’ annual average and a new record for a single year!!**

Last year, Kansas tornadoes killed 14 people and injured 82. The Greensburg tornado, on May 4, 2007, is the strongest tornado on record.

**Lightning is the #2 weather killer in the United States – killing more people than tornadoes and hurricanes combined!!**

Lightning produces an electric charge or current that generates heat up to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit – that’s five times hotter than the sun’s surface!.

**Do you know the fastest and most reliable way to receive information about severe weather and other community hazards like chemical spills or leaks?**

A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) All-Hazards Radio is the fastest and most reliable way to receive severe weather watches, warnings and advisories and information about other community hazards. One metro program, Project Community Alert, makes NOAA all-hazard radios available at cost. Visit [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org) for details.

The annual statewide tornado drill is Tuesday, March 11 at 1:30 p.m.

In the event of inclement weather, the drill will occur on Thursday, March 13 at 1:30 p.m.

**Do you know what CERT is?**

CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team. A CERT group is an organized team of people trained by the Olathe Fire Department for disaster planning, preparedness and survival. The Olathe CERT program has trained more than 800 people since its inception in 2001.

Learn more about severe weather, emergency preparedness and CERT by calling Olathe’s Emergency Management Coordinator Rita Hoffman at (913) 971-7943 or visit [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org) and click on “Emergency Preparedness.”

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