



Press release

TO: Media Outlets
FROM: CLTV/WGN-TV news station, Chicago, IL
RE: March 26 Herscher Severe Weather Preparedness Day

The Chicago-based CLTV/WGN-TV weather department and the Herscher Fire and Police Departments will hold a Severe Weather Preparedness Day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, at the fire station at 371 E. Myrtle Ave in Herscher.

The event will feature an open house where individuals can come and learn essential preparation and protection tips for times of severe weather such as tornados, blizzards, and heavy rainfalls and lightning. A family-friendly program, there will be handouts for adults and children and discussions about Kankakee County severe weather spanning the last 65 years. In addition, NOAA Weather radios will be available for purchase (\$40/radio), and will be pre-programmed right there at the time of purchase to receive local alerts and notifications.

Also on hand will be CLTV/WGN-TV meteorologist Mike Janssen. Janssen, who is a Herscher High School graduate and whose family still resides in the area, recognized the importance of holding such an event after the high number of severe weather circumstances that have crossed through Iroquois, Kankakee, and nearby counties over the last year. "On both a low- and a high-scale level, natural disasters are an unfortunate fact of life," Janssen said. "When severe weather occurs, every second counts, and the up-to-the-minute notifications and warnings on the NOAA Weather Radio help people to protect themselves and their families."

"We really want to increase awareness of the NOAA Weather Radios and their usefulness," Janssen said. "By offering the radios at the open house and pre-programming them for individuals, we hope to eliminate the reasons why someone wouldn't have one in their home. They really are invaluable tools."

The open house is co-sponsored by Herscher's Fire Department, Police Department, and Martin & Sons Hardware Hank store. For more information, please contact Janssen (mjanssen@wgntv.com or 773-883-7832) or the Herscher Fire Department (815-426-2143).