Butler County Emergency Management Agency
610 Oak Street, Allison, IA. 50602
Office: 319-267-9968
Fax: 866-237-4347
EMAIL: cshowalter@butlercounty.iowa.gov

CHRIS SHOWALTER - Coordinator

4/8/2024

I have received some questions about the Tornado Warning that was issued yesterday (Sunday April 7th, 2024) afternoon, and why some people did not receive the alert. Here is information on the Alert system and will hopefully clarify why some people did not receive the alerts.

SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION

Butler County utilizes the Alert Iowa Emergency Notification System (RAVE) to communicate emergency information directly to citizens via voice call, text message, email, and social media. Citizens will need to sign up to receive alerts if they choose to do so. Here are 3 ways to sign up for the alerts:

To sign up: (ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS)

1. Text **BUTLERIA** to **672-83** (this is the quickest and easiest way to receive Emergency Alerts)

2. Create an account on the Butler County web portal at:
   https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=ButlerCountyAlerts

3. Download the Smart911 app from the Apple or Google Play stores. (free app)
   - Select **Butler Co SMS Opt-in Emergency Notifications** and select your options.

EMERGENCY ALERT INFORMATION:
Any Watches or Warnings that are issued by the National Weather Service (Des Moines) will be sent out as follows:

1. **WATCHES:** Are **County wide** alerts; meaning weather conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in Butler County.
   a. **All** citizens within the County that are signed up for weather alerts will receive this alert notification.

2. **WARNINGS:** Are **polygon specific** alerts **(NOT COUNTY WIDE);** meaning a severe weather threat is imminent and you need to take shelter immediately.
   a. Anyone **within** the warning polygon area will receive the Warning alerts.
   b. Anyone **outside** of the polygon area **will not** receive Warning alerts.

I hope this clarifies the difference between Watches and Warnings for the Alert notifications.

Chris Showalter – Coordinator,

Butler County Emergency Management