

Severe Weather Awareness Week in Alabama

February 23 - 27, 2004

February 23 through February 27, 2004, has been proclaimed Severe Weather Awareness Week in Alabama by Governor Bob Riley. This special week is a time for all Alabamians to learn and/or review the proper safety precautions necessary for protecting your life during deadly weather.

Throughout the week, the National Weather Service, Alabama Emergency Management Agency, and American Red Cross Chapters in Alabama will be conducting educational activities to help people learn how to prevent injuries and deaths from tornadoes, damaging winds, flash floods, lightning, and hail. Media outlets are asked to promote this week through articles, stories, and interviews to acquaint people with severe weather dangers and the proper safety precautions necessary for survival.

This booklet details material on severe weather and ways to prepare against it. Tornadoes, damaging winds, flash floods, lightning, and hail ALL pose great danger to Alabama. Weather-related disasters do occur annually from these phenomena. After nearly every disaster, the story is the same; people survive tornadoes because they know what to do! By taking a few minutes to learn or review severe weather safety rules and procedures, you could save your life or the life of a friend or family member.

A statewide tornado drill will be conducted by the National Weather Service and Alabama Emergency Management Agency on Wednesday, February 25th. The purpose of this drill is to give Alabamians an opportunity to determine if they can adequately receive a tornado watch or warning and to practice the actions necessary for protecting their lives and others in the event of a real tornado. We encourage everyone's participation, including media, in the drill to make it a meaningful practice. The drill will be postponed to Friday, February 27th if bad weather should occur on Wednesday the 25th. Alabama's statewide drill is conducted jointly with a number of other southeastern states.

The warning system continues to improve. Storms are better detected with a network of Doppler radars. An Emergency Alert System (EAS) has accelerated the distribution of warnings. An expanded NOAA Weather Radio network now lets nearly everyone to be within range of direct weather broadcasts. But all of these efforts will fail if you do not know what to do and where to go! The need to react quickly and have a plan of action when severe weather materializes is essential. The National Weather Service, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, and the American Red Cross urge you to participate in the statewide drill and take time during the week to review, update, or create your preparedness plan.



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Cover Description

The front cover photo was taken from Cherokee County of a tornado in DeKalb County on April 25, 2003 by John Hendrickson. The back cover photo is the Palm Sunday tornado taken by Jeff Formby on March 27, 1994. The front and back covers were designed by Darone Jones. Inside designs and arrangement were done by Michael Scotten and Darone Jones. The 30th Anniversary of the "Super Outbreak" article was written by Krissy Hurley.