

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RALEIGH NC
800 AM EST SUN FEB 27 2011

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 05

...Statewide Tornado Drill scheduled from Wednesday, March 2nd at 930 am...

Governor Bev Perdue in conjunction with the National Weather Service and Department of Crime Control and Public Safety have declared this week as Severe Weather Awareness week for 2011. All week long the national weather service will be issuing informative messages to help you prepare for severe weather.

Each day will cover a different topic. Monday will define severe thunderstorms. Tuesday we will cover lightning. Wednesday's topic will be tornadoes. Thursday we will talk about flooding...and Friday...the alert process.

On Wednesday...March 2nd at 930 am...the National Weather Service in cooperation with local broadcasters will conduct the statewide tornado drill in the form of a Required Monthly Test on all NOAA weather radio and public alert systems. The alarm test will activate the State Emergency Alert System and be carried by local radio broadcasters. This will allow schools...business...and residents the opportunity to practice their tornado drills and enact safety plans.

Over the last several years a number of North Carolina residents have been injured and even killed by lightning...tornadoes and flooding and property losses from tornadoes since 2005 have exceeded \$53 million. The recent active weather pattern this winter if carried over through the spring could bring increased severe weather activity. Everyone across North Carolina should use this week to think about what to do when threatened by lightning...hail...flooding...and tornadoes. Thunderstorms bring a variety of threats...and knowing how to protect you and your family's life is important.

Use this week to discuss safety at work and with your children and students. Talk about your severe weather plans...where to take shelter and practice taking refuge in that hall closet or bathroom. Setting aside a few moments this week to talk about severe weather safety with your co-workers and family may one day save your life and theirs.

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