

Messages from the National Weather Service and Alabama Emergency Management Agency

The southeastern United States, including Alabama, is one of the most active weather regions in the world. Several severe weather episodes strike the state each year, some of which have deadly results. Technology such as Doppler weather radar and more effective communications such as Emergency Alert System and the Internet have greatly improved our ability to provide early warnings to Alabama residents. Powerful technology and early warnings cannot save lives unless people are prepared, stay informed, and know how to react during severe weather.



That's what this week is all about - time to learn, time to review, time to get ready! With Alabama in such an active weather region, it is not IF we will have more devastating tornadoes, it's simply WHEN!!

*Kenneth E. Graham, Meteorologist-in-Charge
National Weather Service, Birmingham*



The Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) joins Governor Bob Riley, local EMAs, the National Weather Service, American Red Cross, and Alabama Department of Education each year in the campaign to educate people in our state about severe weather. Each year we face the threat of natural disasters caused by severe weather. Alabama weather history records loss of life and millions of dollars in property damage caused by severe weather. This is why severe weather awareness is so important. Our goal during this week and beyond is to encourage everyone to learn how you and your family can prepare for severe weather. Discuss preparing for emergencies with your family. We encourage you to make a family preparedness plan and exercise it like you would a home fire drill. Planning ahead could save your life.

*Bruce Baughman
Director, AEMA, Clanton*

Recognizing Our Partners

In recognition of their commitment to public service and safety, the National Weather Service extends a special thanks to those contributing to the 2004 edition of Severe Weather Awareness Week in Alabama:



Mercedes-Benz



Severe Weather Awareness Week in Alabama, an annual public awareness campaign to draw attention to severe weather preparedness, is 29 years old. Begun by the National Weather Service following the April 3rd and 4th, 1974, super-outbreak of tornadoes, this week has been observed each year as part of a continuing commitment to improve public education and severe weather awareness. The National Weather Service has traditionally led this week, but additional partners have joined the public service effort in order to improve and expand the effort to reach as many Alabamians with this important information.

In recognition of their commitment to public service and safety, the National Weather Service extends a special thanks to our partners whose contributions to the 2004 edition of Severe Weather Awareness Week in Alabama have made this booklet possible.