



Severe Weather Preparedness Week Fact Sheet

Although Georgia has some of the most beautiful weather in the country year-round, it is also susceptible to a wide variety of natural disasters. During **Severe Weather Preparedness Week, Feb. 4-8, 2019** Georgians are encouraged to learn about possible severe weather threats and how to prepare for them. Each day has a different focus.

Family Preparedness/NOAA Weather Radio Day – Monday, Feb. 4

- If a disaster struck, would your family know what to do? What if you were separated? Sit down with your family to decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency.
- Also on Feb. 4, take a few minutes to program your NOAA Weather Radio. If you don't have a weather radio, consider purchasing one. They are the most reliable way to learn about storms before they hit.

Thunderstorm Safety – Tuesday, Feb. 5

- Thunderstorms are common in Georgia, and they shouldn't be underestimated. They can produce strong winds, lightning, tornadoes, hail and flash flooding.
- Remember to tie down loose outdoor items before severe thunderstorms. Postpone outdoor activities and stay inside.
- Severe thunderstorms are defined as thunderstorms that produce 1 inch hail or larger and/or strong wind gusts of 58mph or greater. Severe hail that is 1 inch in diameter is roughly the size of a quarter.

Tornado Safety drill to occur at 9 a.m. – Wednesday, Feb. 6

- Tornadoes are some of nature's most violent storms, generating wind speeds that can exceed 250 miles per hour.
- A **tornado watch** means a tornado is possible in your area. A **tornado warning** means a tornado has been spotted, and you should take shelter immediately.
- It's important for everyone in the family to know the safest place to go during a tornado. Storm cellars and basements provide the best protection. If underground shelter is not available, go to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.

Lightning Safety – Thursday, Feb. 7

- Lightning can strike from several miles away. If you can hear thunder, you are in danger of being struck by lightning. Stay indoors until 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder.
- Avoid showering or bathing during thunderstorms, as plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity from lightning.

Flood Safety – Friday, Feb. 8

- Nearly half of all flood-related deaths occur when people drive into floodwaters and their vehicle is swept away. It only takes two feet of water to sweep away a vehicle. Remember: turn around, don't drown.
- Protect your important documents from flooding by making copies and placing them in a waterproof container, like a plastic bag.