



Shelby County Office of Preparedness
Dale Lane, Director
Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor

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Weather Hazard Events Next Week-Proclamation Ceremony This Thursday

Mayors throughout the county will join Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. this Thursday as they jointly proclaim next week as **Shelby County's PrepareAthon Week**. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness Emergency Operations Center, 1075 Mullins Station Road.

"Shelby County is the first in Tennessee to join the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in this five-day weather hazards education event. I'm pleased all the mayors throughout our county recognize the importance of this important initiative to keep our citizens safe," said Mayor Luttrell.

"The PrepareAthon, April 25-29 involves education sessions and drills at schools, businesses, community groups, faith-based organizations and neighborhood associations," added Dale Lane, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness. Next week's topics include:

- **Monday April 25: Sign Up for Weather Alerts and Warnings**
- **Tuesday April 26: Learn Your Local Flooding Risk**
- **Wednesday April 27: Participate in Shelby County's Tornado Drill**
- **Thursday April 28: Drop, Cover and Hold On During Shelby County's Earthquake Drill**
- **Friday April 29: Personal and Business Preparedness Day**

Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) will attend the proclamation ceremony. **"We appreciate Mayor Luttrell, his staff and the mayors throughout the county for their support of this program. The PrepareAthon certainly sets the standard that we strive for. We encourage other communities to join us as well,"** said Willie Womack, Chief Preparedness Branch, National Preparedness Division, FEMA Region-IV.

The PrepareAthon will emphasize the four principles of disaster preparation and response:

1. **Stay informed**
2. **Have a response plan**
3. **Build an emergency kit**
4. **Get involved by taking a weather spotter course or volunteering to assist during a disaster**

For more information about **Shelby County's PrepareAthon**, go to www.staysafeshelby.us or call **(901) 222-6700**.

(End of Release)