

News Release



For Immediate Release
February 24, 2017



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness, in partnership with the National Weather Service, invites you to participate in **Tennessee's Severe Weather Awareness Week!** "Each day is dedicated to a specific weather safety initiative. We encourage you to stay informed with a NOAA all-hazards weather radio, upload the ReadyTN mobile app, and find your "safe place" at home and at work. Prepare to survive severe weather," said Dale Lane, Director Shelby County Office of Preparedness. **TN Severe Weather Awareness Week activities include:**

February 26: SKYWARN Storm Spotter Training. "Spotters" are the volunteer eyes and ears on the ground reporting inclement weather and damage to the National Weather Service (NWS). To become a Spotter, you are invited to attend training on March 23 at 6:30 p.m. at 6865 Poplar Pike, Memphis, TN.



February 27: Flooding and Flash Floods. Flooding is the number one natural disaster. Anywhere it rains it can flood. Shelby County experienced major flooding in 2010, 2011 and 2016 and had a "flash flood emergency" September 11, 2014. Learn your flood risks. Consider purchasing flood insurance with the National Flood Insurance Program. Most flood fatalities occur while driving. When faced with water on the roadways, **"Turn Around, Don't Drown!"**



February 28: Lightning: the Underrated Killer. There is **no safe place outside** when thunderstorms are in the area. Postpone activities if thunderstorms are predicted. If you hear thunder, you are within striking distance of the storm. Don't wait until you see lightning, go into a sturdy building. **When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!**



March 1: Tornado Safety and Preparedness. Keep an eye to the sky when a tornado is predicted and seek shelter immediately! Underground is best. If you do not have a basement, go to the lowest floor of a sturdy building, away from windows. **A statewide tornado drill (including a NOAA radio test) will be conducted at 9:30 a.m. CST.** The National Weather Service in Memphis will post a message to Facebook and Twitter at 9:15. During the drill, practice going to your "safe place" and post a selfie on Facebook or @NWSMemphis on Twitter #SafetySelfie.



March 2: Severe Thunderstorms. Severe thunderstorms may produce hail 1 inch thick, 58 miles per hour winds, or a tornado. Ahead of the storm, find a "safe place" to shelter (the lowest floor of the building, away from windows, with the most walls surrounding it). Have a "go kit" in your safe place to include bottled water, non-perishable food, helmet, a NOAA radio, blankets and pillows.



March 3: NOAA Weather Radio and the Emergency Alert System.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting weather warnings and forecasts as well as alerts for natural disasters, environmental events, and public safety information from the nearest National Weather Service office 24 /7. Have a NOAA radio with a battery back-up and tone alert with you at all times.



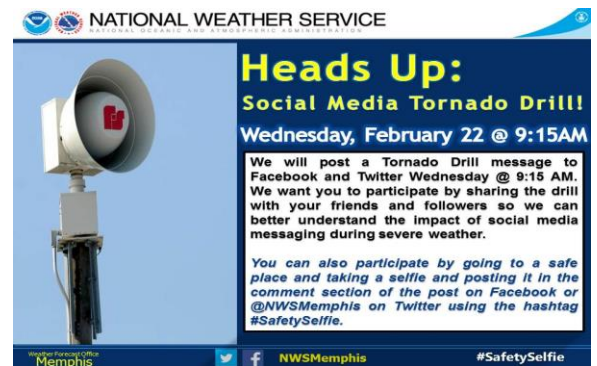
The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is the national public warning system providing the President with the capability to address Americans of a national emergency. EAS is also used by state and local authorities to send alerts for severe weather, imminent threats, and AMBER alerts. Check with your mobile provider to ensure you can receive EAS alerts.



March 4: Importance of Social Media. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness and the National Weather Service uses social media to engage and educate the public and share critical information. Get connected and sign up with Facebook and Twitter today!

Shelby County Office of Preparedness:
https://twitter.com/SCOP_HLS_EMA
<https://www.facebook.com/StaySafeShelby/>

National Weather Service:
www.weather.gov
nws.social.media@noaa.gov



RESOURCES:

National Flood Insurance Program: www.floodsmart.gov
ReadyTN mobile app: www.tnema.org/ReadyTN
Shelby County Office of Preparedness: www.staysafeshelby.us
Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA): www.tnema.org
National Weather Service: www.weather.gov

End of Release