

# News Release



**For Immediate Release**  
**March 20, 2017**

## Get Ready for Spring!

“Spring begins today, March 20. Synonymous with growth, renewal and hope....spring can also bring severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, flooding, power outages, and safety concerns at public events,” said Dale Lane, Director Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP). We encourage you and your family to “spring clean” your safety plans today with these safety tips!

**Know the risks:** Prepare for the most common risks for Shelby County. They include: floods, severe thunderstorms, winter storms, excessive heat, earthquakes, terrorism, power outages, fires, hazardous materials accidents, and epidemic.



**Get a kit:** Create a go kit for home and auto to sustain you and your pets for 7 days to include water, non-perishable food, whistle, flashlight, batteries, cell phone, NOAA radio, tools, medications, first-aid kit, personal protective equipment, extra clothing, important documents (medical and financial), ID's, and home inventory.

**Make a Plan:** Visit <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan> to create a family emergency plan.

- Create a “safe place” to shelter during severe thunderstorms.
- Have a meeting place outside the home and elsewhere in the community.
- Designate an out-of-town contact to check in with during a disaster.
- Learn alternative routes to and from home and work in case of flash flooding.
- Complete emergency contact wallet cards for family member.
- Create a pet care team with neighbors to look after pets if you cannot make it home.
- Teach family members to safely turn off water, gas, and electricity.
- Practice how to evacuate or shelter-in-place with family and pets at a moment’s notice.

### Stay Informed:

- Stay alert to your surroundings. Report anything suspicious to authorities.
- Keep cell phones charged. Teach everyone to text!
- Ensure wireless devices can receive wireless emergency alerts.
- Have a NOAA all-hazards radio with battery back-up and tone alert.
- Upload the ReadyTN mobile app to mobile devices.



**Be a Buddy!** Your survival is the first priority. However, once you are safe, help those who need assistance (seniors, those without transportation, those with illnesses, and the indigent).

**Resources:** [www.tnema.org/ReadyTN](http://www.tnema.org/ReadyTN), [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov), [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

**End Release**