

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WILMINGTON NC
800 AM EST SUN MAR 03 2013

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN
NORTH CAROLINA AND SOUTH CAROLINA
MARCH 3 - MARCH 9

South Carolina Statewide Tornado Drill scheduled for Tuesday, March 5 at 900 AM
North Carolina Statewide Tornado Drill scheduled for Wednesday, March 6 at 930 AM

This week has been declared both North and South Carolina's Severe Weather Awareness week for 2013. In addition, this week is also NOAA and FEMA's National Severe Weather Preparedness Week. The theme is once again, ***"Be a Force of Nature."***

During this week, NOAA and FEMA are highlighting the importance of planning and practicing how and where to take shelter before severe weather strikes. Being prepared to act quickly can be a matter of life and death.

Being a force of nature goes beyond taking appropriate preparedness action. It's about inspiring others to do the same. We're asking people not only to be prepared, but also to encourage their social network to act by texting, tweeting, or posting a Facebook status update.

Each day this week we will cover a different topic, which include:

- Monday: Know your risk
- Tuesday: Develop an Emergency Plan
- Wednesday: Build a Kit
- Thursday: Hear the Warning with NOAA Weather Radio - Get the Alert
- Friday: Be an example - Get involved
- Saturday: Overview - Severe Weather Threats Across the Carolinas

On Tuesday, March 5th at 900 am, for South Carolina, the National Weather Service in cooperation with local broadcasters will conduct a statewide tornado drill in the form of a Required Monthly Test on all NOAA weather radio and public alert systems. The statewide tornado drill for North Carolina will be held on Wednesday, March 6th at 930 am. The alarm test will activate the State Emergency Alert System and be carried by local radio broadcasters. This will allow schools, business, and residents the opportunity to practice their tornado drills and enact safety plans.

In pursuit of a Weather-Ready Nation, the goal of this week's preparedness activities is to raise awareness about severe weather hazards and highlight effective preparedness

actions. This week, ***be a force of nature***, and encourage others to learn more about severe weather hazards and preparedness.