

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RALEIGH NC
800 AM EST FRI MAR 7 2014

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 2 - MARCH 8

This week has been declared North Carolina's Severe Weather Awareness week for 2014. In addition, this week is also NOAA and FEMA's National Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

Today's theme is: *Be a Force of Nature: Be an example - Get involved*

Building a Weather-Ready Nation requires the action of all of us. Each and every person across the country has the potential to be a force of nature when it comes to weather-readiness. Studies show that individuals need to receive messages a number of ways before taking appropriate action. Many are more likely to act when the messages are received from a trusted source- family, friends, or a community leader. By sharing your preparedness actions with your community, you are being a force of nature.

There are many other ways to get involved, especially *before* a disaster occurs. The whole community can participate in programs and activities to make their families, homes and communities safer from risks and threats. Here are a few ways you can help:

- Volunteer to support disaster efforts in your community. Get trained and volunteer with a Community Emergency Response Team, Medical Reserve Corps unit and/or other Citizen Corps Partner Program or Affiliate organization. Many local faith-based and community organizations have programs active in supporting disasters too.
- Be part of the community planning process. Connect and collaborate with your local emergency planning group, Citizen Corps Council or local emergency management agency.
- Join or start a preparedness project. Find an event or identify local resources, build a team, choose a project, set goals and serve your community by improving the preparedness of your friends, colleagues and neighbors.
- Support major disasters by donating cash or goods which may help meet the needs of your community in times of disaster.

This represents only a few of the many ways that individuals and community organizations can Get Involved to help communities lessen, prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters. For additional opportunities that may be unique to your

community, contact your local emergency management agency or Citizen Corps Council in your area.

History teaches that a lack of awareness and preparation are common threads among all major weather threats. Knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take can save your life and others. During this preparedness week, we ask you to be a force of nature – Know your risk, take action and be an example by sharing what you have done, with your friends, family, coworkers, and others. Once you have taken action, share your story with your family and friends. You can create a video and post it to YouTube or another video sharing site, or post your story on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, or through other social media sites.