

PARTNERS IN PROTECTION

Your local Emergency Management Agency is eager to provide you with the knowledge you need to prepare yourself, your family, your pets, and your business. One way of accomplishing this is by offering Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to your community or group. If you are interested in CERT training or curious about other volunteer opportunities in your county, contact your local EMA. Knowing what to do is just one step - it is crucial that you monitor conditions in your area. Through reports provided by the National Weather Service, an EMA's Alert and Notification System and social media outlets provide real-time information on inclement weather in your area. It is important to have multiple ways of receiving notifications and alerts so that if one method fails you will still receive information.



Courtesy of FEMA/Calhoun County EMA



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To find out more about volunteering in your community, contact your local Emergency Management Agency. For individual county contact information, contact Alabama Emergency Management Agency at 205-280-2200 or go to the following webpage: <http://www.ema.alabama.gov/county.cfm> .

STORM-BASED WARNINGS

The National Weather Service upgraded warning capabilities on October 1, 2007. Traditionally, the NWS issued county-based warnings, which encompassed the entire county regardless of what portion of the county the storm or threat was located. Under the new storm-based warning system, warning polygons only cover the portion of the county actually threatened by the storm. By focusing on the true threat area, warning polygons improve the accuracy and quality of NWS warnings.

In the image to the right, two separate storms have warnings associated with them, one near Greensboro, AL, and the other just west of Centreville, AL. Tornado warnings are in effect for the following counties: Hale, Bibb, Perry, Tuscaloosa, Jefferson, and Shelby. There are significant portions of those same counties that are NOT covered under the actual storm-based warnings. For example, portions of Tuscaloosa, Jefferson, and Shelby Counties are covered by tornado warnings; however, the cities of Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, and Calera are not in the polygons, and therefore, not under a tornado warning.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards will continue to alert the entire county. However, there are several vendors that will alert you only if you are within the storm-based warning.

