



# Mississippi Spring Severe Weather Preparedness Week

## MISSISSIPPI SPRING SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK 2017

**Mississippi Spring Severe Weather Preparedness Week is February 20-24, 2017**, with a statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, February 22 at 9:15 a.m. This annual public event is designed to remind individuals, families, businesses, schools, and institutions that it is essential to plan ahead for severe weather here in Mississippi.

An informed, involved community is more resilient to disaster, and being prepared helps reduce the risks and costs of hazardous weather events. An easy way to get prepared is by participating in MS Spring Severe Weather Preparedness Week (SSWPW). The **statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, February 22nd**, will provide an excellent opportunity for citizens to prepare their homes, families, neighborhoods, and communities!

Here are a few simple ideas on how individuals, families, businesses, and schools can participate during **Spring Severe Weather Preparedness Week**:

### PREPARE YOUR FAMILY

- ◆ Create or update emergency plans with your entire family so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency. Ensure everyone has up-to-date contact info and knows what to do.
- ◆ Practice your family plan during the tornado drill on February 22nd at 9:15 a.m. Have everyone build a family emergency kit together.
- ◆ Check with places your family spends time, such as schools, workplaces, churches, markets, or sports facilities to learn what their emergency plans are.

### PREPARE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- ◆ Share the plans for these areas with your entire family and talk about what you would do if your family was not together during a disaster.
- ◆ Involve your neighbors. Help prepare your neighborhood by asking, "What's our plan?" Talk to your neighbors about their preparedness plans and make sure your plans are compatible. Find out who has special needs and might need help in an emergency.
- ◆ Plan with your neighborhood. Ask your Home Owners Association, your Tenants Group or Neighborhood Civic Association to make emergency preparedness an agenda item during your next meeting. Make sure there is an evacuation plan for your neighborhood, and communicate it to your neighbors.
- ◆ Help neighbors get informed. Host a neighborhood preparedness meeting. Invite your local emergency manager or responders to help lead the discussions.



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## PREPARE YOUR COMMUNITY

- ◆ Include preparedness activities at community events. Consider local events already scheduled in your community, such as state or county fairs, festivals, parades, or sporting events.
- ◆ Encourage local governments and civic groups to help. Ask local Scouts, Lions, chambers of commerce, etc. to set up a booth to distribute emergency preparedness information, recruit volunteers, and discuss preparedness plans within your community.
- ◆ Host a Local Preparedness Fair. Reach out to prominent organizations in your community, such as faith-based and community organizations, businesses, and schools to help coordinate a preparedness fair.
- ◆ Find out how to create or participate in a Citizen Corps - Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in your town or neighborhood.

## PREPARE YOUR WORKPLACE

- ◆ Update and distribute emergency contact information to your employees. Additionally, create and distribute a list of important emergency numbers. Designate critical function or emergency personnel.
- ◆ Organize an emergency preparedness procedures review with employees to review your company's emergency plans. Ensure everyone understands their roles in a "what if?" scenario.
- ◆ Host a disaster preparedness brown bag lunch for employees. Invite local emergency managers to give a disaster preparedness briefing.
- ◆ Get a NOAA Weather Radio and put it on display in your break room or other high-traffic locations and encourage employees to get their own for their homes as well.
- ◆ Put an updated copy of the facility emergency plan on everyone's desk or in email and have group meetings to review it.
- ◆ Showcase instructional videos or distribute preparedness information. Provide information online about training opportunities.
- ◆ Conduct business continuity training. Contact a local business continuity or emergency management professional and work with company leadership to create or update disaster and continuity plans.
- ◆ Conduct office evacuation/shelter-in-place exercises and drills. Schedule an emergency exercise or drill. Once completed, evaluate and decide if new procedures or training are needed. Consult with local responders or emergency managers to participate, observe or advise.
- ◆ Distribute emergency preparedness messages. Include emergency preparedness messages in communication touch points such as e-mails, newsletter articles, bill stuffers, receipts, and social media.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mississippi Spring Severe Weather Preparedness Week at <https://www.weather.gov/jan/swpw>

FEMA- Ready.gov at <http://www.ready.gov>