

GEORGIA SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK

DAY 1 – SAFETY

What You Can Do Before Severe Weather Strikes.

- “Be a Force of Nature” – know the risks for your area, be prepared to take action, and be an example for your community.
- Stay informed with: NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, local media.
- Develop and practice a plan for home, work, school, and when outdoors.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit.

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

- Stop all activities.
- Seek shelter in a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle.
- Wait 30 minutes after storm to resume activities.

When Dangerous Weather Approaches.

- Lightning: Get to a safe place indoors. If you get caught outside, do not be the tallest object in the area.
- Tornado: Get to the lowest level of a sturdy home or building, in an interior room, away from windows.
- Flash Flood: Avoid driving, walking, or swimming in flowing water. Only 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.

National Weather Service Color Chart.

- Green: NWS Outlook equals Get Ready
- Yellow: NWS Watch equals Get Set
- Red: NWS Warning equals STOP what you are doing and take action!

For more information on severe weather preparedness, please visit: www.weather.gov/safety.

DAY 2 – THUNDERSTORMS

Thunderstorm Facts:

- A typical thunderstorm is 15 miles in diameter and lasts an average of 30 minutes.
- Of the estimated 100,000 thunderstorms that occur each year in the United States, about 10% are classified as severe.
- A severe thunderstorm produces hail at least 1 inch in diameter, winds 58 MPH or stronger, or a tornado.

Every thunderstorm needs:

- Moisture to form clouds and rain.
- Unstable and warm air that can rise rapidly.
- Lift caused by cold or warm fronts, sea breezes, Sun's heat, etc.

DAY 3 – TORNADOES

Tornado Facts:

- A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a cumuliform cloud to the ground.
- It can be 1 mile wide or larger and stay on the ground over 50 miles.
- In an average year, 1200 tornadoes cause 60 to 65 fatalities and 1500 injuries nationwide.

- Waterspouts are a type of tornado that forms over water. They are typically weak and short-lived, but can move onshore and cause damage.

The National Weather Service (NWS) uses the Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale to assign a tornado rating based on estimated wind speeds and related damage.

Enhanced Fujita Scale Ratings (3 second wind gusts in miles per hour)

- Rating 0 is 65 to 85 mph
- Rating 1 is 86 to 110 mph
- Rating 2 is 111 to 135 mph
- Rating 3 is 136 to 165 mph
- Rating 4 is 166 to 200 mph
- Rating 5 is over 200 mph

DAY 4 – LIGHTNING

Facts about Lightning

- There is no safe place outdoors when a storm is nearby.
- Lightning causes 30 to 60 fatalities per year.
- The channel of air through which lightning passes can be 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit which is hotter than the surface of the sun!
- The rapid heating and cooling of the air near lightning causes the shockwave that results in Thunder.

DAY 5 - FLASH FLOODS AND FLOODS

Facts about Flooding

- A flash flood occurs within a few hours of heavy or excessive rainfall or a dam/levee failure.
- A flood is the inundation of a normally dry area caused by abnormally high waterflow. Floods usually develop more slowly, typically greater than 6 hours.
- Flooding is the number one cause of death associated with thunderstorms which is more than 90 fatalities each year.