



Get Ready For Tornado Season!

March Marks Start of Active Tornado Season in Georgia.

April 2015

Special points of interest:

- Sign up for **CodeRed** at www.dekalbcountyga.gov
- Sign up for Weather Warning on the **CodeRed** site.
- Weather Warning is a unique service that notifies citizens in the path of severe weather just moments after a warning has been issued by the National Weather Service. This limited **CodeRed** Weather Warning Subscription is available to you at no extra cost.



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Director: Chief S.V. Loeffler



"Tornadoes have terrorized both rural and urban areas in Georgia's recent history, making anyone vulnerable to their hazards," said Charley English, director of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. "In March 2008, an EF-2 tornado tore a 6 mile path through the heart of downtown Atlanta. The next day, twisters ripped through Polk, Floyd, Jefferson, Burke, Butts, and Bartow counties. Three people died as a result of these storms, and counties received a federal disaster declaration. These tragedies and others clearly demonstrate why every Georgian needs to be prepared. Tornadoes have proven to be some of nature's most violent storms that can generate wind speeds of more than 250 mph and can appear out of nowhere with little warning. Being prepared to act quickly by having a plan in place and practicing how and where to take shelter is crucial to mitigating the effects of a tornado. To help Georgia families and businesses **prepare, plan, and stay informed**, Ready Georgia recommends taking the following steps during the tornado season.

Prepare for a Tornado

- Familiarize your self with the terms that are used to identify a tornado hazard.
- A tornado watch means a tornado is possible in your area.
- A tornado warning means a tornado has been spotted in your area, and you need to take shelter immediately.
- Determine in advance where you will take shelter in case of a tornado warning. Storm cellars or basements provide the best protection.
- Make sure **NOAA Weather Radios** are programmed correctly and prepare a ready kit of supplies that may be needed following a tornado.

Plan to take shelter

- If local authorities issue a tornado warning or if you see a funnel cloud, take shelter immediately.
- If underground shelter is not available go into an interior room on the lowest floor possible.
- A vehicle, trailer, or mobile home does not provide adequate protection. Plan to go quickly to a building with a strong foundation, if possible.
- If shelter is not available, lie flat in a ditch or other low-lying area.

Stay Informed of Tornado Threats

- Listen to NOAA Weather radio, watch TV, listen to the radio or check the internet often for official news and instructions as they become available.
- After a tornado, stay out of damaged buildings and stay clear of downed power lines.
- Help injured or trapped people. Check on others who may require special assistance, such as the elderly, children, and people with disabilities.