



BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF ALABAMA
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ALABAMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2010

AEMA and Birmingham NWS urge Alabamians to Prepare for Severe Weather

CLANTON—The Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) and National Weather Service (NWS) are encouraging residents of Alabama to prepare for the 2010 severe weather season. Monday, Feb. 22 through Friday, Feb. 26, has been proclaimed Severe Weather Awareness Week in Alabama by Governor Bob Riley. The theme for 2010 is “You should be ready!”

During this week Alabamians are encouraged to make sure their families are ready for severe weather. Preparations should include, but aren’t limited to, understanding your risks and vulnerabilities, reviewing insurance coverage, having a three-day emergency supply kit, creation of a family communication plan, monitoring information from your local emergency management agency and having a properly programmed NOAA weather radio. Visit www.ema.alabama.gov to get more information on these topics.

AEMA and NWS will be holding a news conference on the first day of the 2010 Alabama Preparedness Workshop where local EMA and state agency personnel will be improving their preparedness skills.

“Citizen preparedness is the key to reducing the impact of disasters.” said Brock Long, AEMA Director. “EMA personnel understand the need to be ready. However, residents and business owners need to understand that they are an essential part of having a more prepared Alabama.”

- Who:** Representatives from the National Weather Service, and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency
- What:** Alabama’s Severe Awareness Week News Conference
- When:** Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010, Noon
- Where:** Azalea Room, Marriott at Capital Hills, 2500 Legends Circle, Prattville, Alabama

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**For more information contact the AEMA Public Information Office
(205)280-2275 or (205)280-2255
Visit us online at www.ema.alabama.gov.**