

MESSAGES FROM THE NWS AND AEMA

Over the past few years, Alabama has experienced many weather extremes. We've seen it all, from the 2005 Hurricane season where three out of the first four named storms directly impacted Alabama and Hurricane Katrina made landfall in September, to the horrific drought of 2007 and the extreme statewide rainfall in 2009, and even the record-breaking cold in early 2010. Severe weather is extreme as well, just on a smaller time scale. From sunny and cool on one day, to large hail and tornadoes the next. One storm produces some light rain while another floods out roads and homes. In Alabama, we see it all, and YOU need to ensure you're prepared. As you go through this book, carefully read the safety tips. YOU know severe weather will happen this year. YOU SHOULD BE READY!

Jim Stefkovich, Meteorologist-In-Charge
National Weather Service, Birmingham



The third week in January 2010, Huntsville, AL was severely impacted by an EF-2 tornado. The destruction created by this event serves as a reminder that Alabama can experience severe weather at anytime. Typically we expect the height of severe weather during spring months and a secondary height in November. In 2009, Alabama received five presidential disaster declarations from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for severe weather events across the state. Overall, Alabama ranks 7th in the nation for presidential disaster declarations. At the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), we realize we live in a state prone to natural and man-made disasters. For that reason we work hard to increase citizen preparedness by creating tools such as our website to help citizens better understand their risks and the potential hazards their community faces. I encourage you and your family to use the "Risk Analysis Tool" and take the preparedness survey at www.ema.alabama.gov. On this site, you can learn how to create an emergency preparedness kit, find contact information for your local EMA office, and view current

weather watches and warnings under the "Situational Awareness" tab. It is our mission to be Alabama's coordinating agency for disaster preparedness, response and recovery. You can help us by making sure you are ready at home and in your communities.



Brock Long, Director
Alabama EMA, Clanton

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

To recognize their commitment to public service and safety, the National Weather Service extends a special thanks to those contributing to the 2010 edition of the Alabama Severe Weather Awareness Week Booklet:



Additional thanks to Perry County for their contribution as well.