



**FORSYTHCOUNTY**  
Department of Communications  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CITIZENS ENCOURAGED TO PLAN AND PREPARE DURING  
SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK**

*Residents urged to assemble disaster supply kit, develop a plan*

**FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia** – The week of February 4-8, 2013 is Severe Weather Awareness Week in Georgia. This annual observance is designed to educate Georgians about a variety of severe weather-related topics. Forsyth County residents are encouraged to get ready for unexpected events, practice emergency response procedures for all types of severe weather and learn more about threats.

“While this awareness campaign lasts just one week, we cannot stress enough how vitally important it is to be prepared year-round and most especially during the months of March and April, when our area tends to experience severe weather,” said Fire Chief and Emergency Management Agency Director Danny Bowman.

“We encourage all residents to assemble a disaster supply kit and develop a family disaster plan to better prepare themselves for severe weather or other emergency situations that they may encounter,” Bowman said.

When assembling a disaster supply kit, some of the items recommended for inclusion are:

- Water: one gallon per person per day, for at least 3 days
- Food: at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- Can opener
- Radio: battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA weather radio with tone alert, and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Local maps

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When developing an emergency plan, consider including topics such as the following:

- Know how you will contact one another and reconnect if separated.
- Establish a family meeting place that is familiar and easy to find.
- Address the unique needs of pets, older loved ones and family members with special needs in your plan.

The county has 17 outdoor severe weather sirens located throughout the county, designed to notify residents who are outdoors that severe weather is in the area. The sirens are activated (warning tone) in the event Forsyth County is placed under a tornado warning. Regular monthly testing of the audible siren (test tone) takes place at noon on the first Wednesday of every month, weather permitting.

The Forsyth County Emergency Management Agency encourages residents to sign up for weather alert notifications, for use in concert with the county's outdoor severe weather sirens and a NOAA weather radio.

Forsyth County residents can sign up to receive these time-sensitive weather alerts for severe thunderstorm warnings, flash flood warnings and tornado warnings. Citizens can elect to be notified when alerts are issued via telephone calls, emails or text messages. There is no cost for citizens to sign up to receive these weather alerts, but phone usage or text charges may apply.

To sign up for the alerts, visit the Forsyth County Web site at [www.forsythco.com](http://www.forsythco.com) and look for the 'Sign up to receive Forsyth County Weather Alerts' icon on the home page. You will be directed to a secure sign-up page hosted by Twenty First Century Communications. The information provided during the registration process determines the geographical region of the county for which you will receive alerts.

For more information, call the Forsyth County Emergency Management Agency office at 770.205.5674 or visit [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov).

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