

## SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS: Each year Georgians face the threat of severe weather events such as lightning, thunderstorms, floods, flash floods, hailstorms, tornadoes and hurricanes, all potentially dangerous to life, health and property; and

WHEREAS: Urbanization and continued population growth increase the potential for these storms to cause death and destruction; and

WHEREAS: During the past 25 years, severe weather events caused the deaths of at least 239 people in Georgia; and

WHEREAS: Numerous weather-related injuries and substantial property damage occurred in Georgia in 2002; and

WHEREAS: It is vital that effective public education programs concerning severe weather systems and preparedness procedures continue for the benefit of all Georgians; and

WHEREAS: Departments and agencies of the local, state and federal governments, along with voluntary and professional associations, elected leaders and news media, are committed to informing Georgia citizens about safety and severe weather preparedness procedures so that they may better protect themselves, their families and their neighbors; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim the week of February 16-22, 2003, as SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia and encourage our citizens to become more aware of severe weather preparedness measures and to participate in various awareness programs scheduled during the week, such as Family Protection Day on February 17 and the Statewide Tornado Drill on February 19.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 12th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand three.