

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. During the past thirty-one years, severe weather events caused the deaths of at least 308 people in Georgia. Numerous weather-related injuries and substantial property damage occurred in Georgia in 2008; 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 volunteer 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; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia is launching *Ready Georgia*, a public awareness campaign to help Georgia's citizens understand the importance of emergency preparedness and provide them with the tools necessary to be prepared in the event of a weather-related or other emergency; now

THEREFORE: I, Sonny Perdue, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim the week of February 1-7, 2009, as SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia, and encourage our citizens to become more aware of severe weather safety measures and to participate in the various awareness programs during the week, such as Family Preparedness Day on Sunday, February 1, the Statewide Tornado Drill on Wednesday, February 4, and Volunteer/Weather Spotters on Saturday, February 7.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 22nd day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand nine.