



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emergency Services

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Take Action Before Severe Weather Hits

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – During the week of March 3-9, Cumberland County Emergency Services and the National Weather Service (NWS) Raleigh will be promoting North Carolina's Severe Weather Awareness Week. On Wednesday, March 6, North Carolina's annual statewide tornado drill will take place at 9:30 a.m. It will be broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio and the Emergency Alert System via the Required Monthly Test.

This is a good time for everyone to consider what actions to take during a tornado or other severe weather event.

Know Your Risk: If you have not signed up for CodeRED, our free emergency notification system, please do so in order to receive severe weather alerts. Go to the county's homepage at www.co.cumberland.nc.us and click on the CodeRED icon.

Tornadoes can occur any month of the year in North Carolina. Violent tornadoes with winds in excess of 150 mph have struck the state as early as March and as late as November. A large portion of tornado fatalities in the state have occurred at night. Tornadoes are difficult to see during the night, and even when warnings are provided, people asleep are less likely to hear those warnings.

Take Action: When a tornado warning is issued for your area or if you spot a tornado, seek shelter in a substantial building. The safest place is in an interior bathroom or closet.

- Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible. Stay away from windows as debris picked up by a tornado can easily shatter a window.
- If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter in a low spot like a ditch or culvert. You want to get as low as possible to protect yourself from flying debris.
- If in your car and threatened by a tornado, abandon your vehicle and seek shelter in a substantial structure or in a ditch. Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle.

Our Emergency Services Department encourages you to learn about severe weather preparedness at their webpage, http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/emergency_mgmt/, or the National Weather Service page at <http://www.weather.gov/rah/2013ncswaw>.

You can also keep up with weather advisories on the Emergency Services' Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CumberlandCountyNC911>.

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