



“America’s PrepareAthon! is a national community-based campaign that moves individuals from awareness to action by preparing for relevant hazards through group discussions, drills, and innovative communications-related products. The campaign increases the number of individuals who understand which disasters could happen in their community, know what to do to be safe and mitigate damage, and help their community do the same.

America’s PrepareAthon! takes a Whole Community approach to disaster preparedness with registered preparedness actions at the grassroots level across the Nation. The campaign offers easy-to-implement resources to help individuals, organizations, and communities practice simple, effective actions. Preparedness actions can be scaled from individual actions to community-wide events.”

Louisiana Spring Severe Weather Preparedness Week

Here in Louisiana we have two severe weather seasons, one in the spring and another in the fall. We want to work with our Guard Force and their families to further our reach in educating everyone in regards to preparedness in their homes, schools and offices. Severe Weather Awareness Week will be March 6-10, 2017. As we did last year, we will plan for the **statewide tornado drill Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 9:15am.**



We need your participation!

Here in Louisiana, spring brings powerful tornadoes and flooding along with crawfish season and Jazz Fest!

Each day during the Severe Weather Awareness Week, we urge you to do one simple action to protect your workplace, home, school or house of worship from some Nature’s greatest risks.

Monday, March 6 –Get weather alerts at home, work and on the go: Sign up for the RED STICK READY App and visit GOHSEP web page at <http://gohsep.la.gov/> and check out GET A GAME PLAN.

Tuesday, March 7 – Prepare for a power outage by having an alternate emergency charging option for your mobile devices.

Wednesday, March 8 – Participate in the statewide tornado drill at 0915 or conduct a group discussion on tornado preparedness at 0915 on 8 March 2017.

Thursday, March 9 – Visit floodsmart.gov to learn your flood risk in your area. *(Also, back-up tornado drill day)*

Friday, March 10 – Create a Ready kit for your home and car.





How to Participate in Tornado Drill

To help our Service Members, Employees and Families prepare for a tornado, all facilities can participate in the statewide tornado drill on **Wednesday, March 8, 2017** (*back-up day is Thursday, March 9, 2017*) as part of **Louisiana Spring Severe Weather Preparedness Week!**

Before the Drill:

- Designate someone to take photos of the drill.
- Review your severe weather emergency plan with staff and/or family, and encourage them to learn how to prepare for tornadoes.
- Make sure everyone knows where tornado shelter areas are located. Basements and interior rooms or hallways on the lowest floor are safest.
- Encourage your staff and/or family to stay weather-aware at home, work and on the go.
- Install a NOAA Weather Radio, if you haven't already done so. Make sure it's programmed to receive alerts for your Parish and check that it has a battery back-up.

Around 9:15 a.m. the Day of the Drill: (feel free to choose your own time)

- Listen for the tornado sirens or monitor your NOAA Weather Radio for the message from the National Weather Service. This is your cue to begin the drill.
- If you are conducting the drill at your workplace, announce the drill using your building's notification system.
- Follow the steps in your emergency plan.
- Everyone should proceed to their tornado shelter area.
- Use stairs instead of elevators.
- Crouch low, sitting or kneeling against a wall and covering head with hands.

Replace Your Batteries & Update Disaster Kit

Daylight Savings Time begins on March 12, 2017 at 2:00 a.m.. Sorry to say you will lose that extra hour of sleep when we Spring Forward. On the bright side, there will be more light in the evening. Did you know that you should change the batteries in your smoke detectors and weather radio twice a year? If you make a habit of doing this when the time changes you will always remember. It is very important to have fresh batteries in these devices in case of a power outage when you would need them to work during a storm or a fire.

It is also a good time to refresh your family disaster kit. Change out stored food and water supplies every six months. Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's need change.



BUILD A KIT

Include enough food, water, and medical supplies for your needs in your emergency kit to last for at least 72 hours.

Ad Ready READY.GOV/MYPLAN