

# A MESSAGE TO YOU

When it comes to severe weather, planning ahead can save your life. Think about your home, office, school, church or anywhere else you or your family might be. Do you have a reliable way to receive weather warnings? Do you know where you can take cover? Do you have enough food and emergency supplies to help you endure several days without power? The answers to these and other questions could make a major difference when severe weather strikes.

This booklet examines all types of severe weather and gives you the advice you need before, during, and after the storm. It's not just tornadoes. It's not just hurricanes. Alabama is prone to many different types of severe weather.

Take some time now to understand the threats and plan ahead. The time you invest in preparation now can make all the difference in the future.

Governor  
Robert Bentley



In recent years, you may recall the Alabama Emergency Management Agency promoting two distinct severe weather seasons, spring and early winter. Today, that is no longer the case. We are now highly encouraging residents to be ready for "all hazards all the time." Our state is unique in a number of ways and that includes its weather pattern. The devastation from the April 2011 storms will forever be etched in our minds; however, the most recent severe weather event in December 2012 is a perfect reminder why we all must always be prepared, regardless of the month or the season. The All-Hazard NOAA Weather Radio is one of the best ways you and your family can be made aware of impending severe weather.

As much as we stress preparedness for what we consider natural hazards (tornadoes, flooding, hurricanes, etc.), having a plan of action for technical hazards is just as important. Technological hazards may include hazardous material spills, nuclear power plant failures or possibly a train derailment. Usually, little or no warning precedes incidents involving technological hazards. For that reason, talking with your county EMA Director regarding their plan will help you better formulate an effective plan for you and your family.



Art Faulkner, Director  
Alabama EMA, Clanton

