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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Joe Farmer and Derrec Becker  
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### Severe Weather Awareness Week - March 3-9

**COLUMBIA, S.C. (February 27, 2013)** — Governor Nikki Haley has proclaimed that South Carolina Severe Weather Awareness Week for 2013 will be observed March 3 – 9.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division, the National Weather Service, and the South Carolina Broadcasters Association jointly sponsor the week to remind people that severe storms, tornadoes and flash floods are significant hazards in South Carolina and people need to take proper safety precautions.

SCEMD and the National Weather Service are promoting awareness of procedures that help keep you safe during tornadoes.

**A highlight of the week will be the annual statewide tornado drill.** The State Superintendent of Education is encouraging schools statewide to participate in the drill. South Carolina has received a waiver from the Federal Communications Commission to use the Tornado Warning product on NOAA tone-alert weather radio when the drill is conducted. During the drill, the National Weather Service will use a real-event code, TOR. The “TOR” code will activate tone-alert weather radios that are set to receive tornado warnings, and those radios will broadcast the exercise message.

**The drill will be conducted Tuesday, March 5, at 9 a.m. with a backup date of Thursday, March 7.** Public schools, state and local Emergency Management, the South Carolina Broadcasters Association, and others will participate in this annual event. The purpose of the drill is to test communication systems, safety procedures, mitigation processes, etc.

For further information on Severe Weather Awareness Week, contact your county emergency management director, the State Emergency Management Division or your nearest National Weather Service office.

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*Interviews are available to the media. Contact Joe Farmer and Derrec Becker, SCEMD at (803) 737-8500 or Steve Naglic at NOAA at (803) 765-5501 for more information.*

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