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## JOINT NEWS RELEASE

### *For Immediate Release*

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## South Carolina Severe Weather and Flood Safety Week March 6-12, 2016

**COLUMBIA, S.C. (March 7, 2016)** — Governor Nikki Haley has proclaimed that South Carolina Severe Weather and Flood Safety Week for 2016 will be observed March 6-12.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division and the National Weather Service 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 floods and tornadoes.

**A highlight of the week will be the annual statewide tornado drill.** The drill is conducted in close coordination with the South Carolina Broadcasters Association. This year, again, the State Superintendent of Education is encouraging schools statewide to participate. 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 Wednesday, March 9, at 9 a.m.** 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 and Flood Safety Week, contact your county emergency management director, SCEMD or your nearest National Weather Service office. SCEMD's Severe Weather and Flood Safety Week page [can be found here](#).

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*"South Carolina's emergency management program minimizes loss of life and property damage from all-hazard incidents."*

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