



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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Last year, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes devastated communities nationwide. Hundreds of men and women lost their lives when disaster struck; still more could only watch as a home or a business was destroyed in a storm. During National Severe Weather Preparedness Week, as Americans everywhere continue to help these families get back on their feet, we reaffirm that all of us can take action to make our communities safer, stronger, and more prepared for severe weather.

Building a more resilient Nation starts at home. Before storms strike, families should have an emergency supply kit on hand and an emergency plan in place. Homes and businesses should be properly secured. And if severe weather is on the horizon, those in its path should take shelter immediately and wait for instructions from local emergency management officials.

Because effective disaster preparedness depends on engaged citizens, my Administration remains committed to giving them the tools they need to keep their neighborhoods safe. We have joined with every level of government and partners in every sector to improve emergency management on the ground and issue timely alerts when severe weather is near. And to ensure people have accurate information when they need it most, we have enhanced [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) and [www.Listo.gov](http://www.Listo.gov)—a one-stop shop for preparedness before, during, and after the storm.

Protecting ourselves and our loved ones from severe weather takes a whole community, and each of us can play an important part. This week, I encourage all Americans to help meet tomorrow's challenges by making safety today's priority.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.