



GOVERNOR'S DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

For immediate release:

SEVERE WEATHER PLANNING FOR TEXANS

AUSTIN – Straight line wind storms, downburst rains and tornadoes can occur at any time of year in Texas. So it pays for individuals and families to plan what to do well in advance.

Basic preparedness plans should be in place at home, at work and at school and each family member or employee should understand the plan. When a severe storm or tornado strikes, there may be only a few seconds to react and find shelter.

The first step in preparedness is to ensure you have a reliable methods of receiving weather information including TV, radio and NOAA weather radio, plus a back-up system if one goes out. Battery powered equipment and extra batteries should be part of the plan.

For home, work or school, shelter areas should be designated, whether they are in basements below ground level, ground level windowless rooms, or interior hallways on the lowest floor. Protect yourself from flying debris with thick blankets, sleeping bags or mattresses.

If you are in a vehicle, mobile home or portable classroom, move quickly to a strong building for shelter. If there is no shelter, lie flat in the nearest ditch or depression. Do not take shelter in a structure with a high, wide roof such as an auditorium, gym or shopping mall.

Choose a person to telephone outside your city to let others know you are safe and choose a place for family members to meet if your neighborhood and home are damaged or destroyed.



For more information, contact GDEM Public Information at 512.424.2138 or visit GDEM's Web site: www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem.