



# Blog Post Template

Posted by:

**Be a Force of Nature during National Severe Weather Preparedness Week**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) partnered to designate March 3-9, 2013, as National Severe Weather Preparedness Week, and is calling upon all Americans to *Be a Force of Nature*.

[Organization] is committed to *Being a Force of Nature* and pledges to do so by: knowing our risk, taking action, and being an example for our families and community by sharing the steps we took. Because we live in an area prone to [identify risk – tornadoes, flash floods, severe thunderstorms] the recent severe weather and [tornado outbreaks] reminded us that this weather can strike anywhere and at any time.

Just last year, there were more than 450 weather-related fatalities and nearly 2,600 injuries. Each time severe weather threatens we hear stories of ordinary Americans who do the extraordinary to save loved ones – a mother protecting her children by shielding them from flying debris, a homeowner opening up his storm shelter to neighbors, neighbors helping a senior in a wheelchair get to a safe shelter, individuals ensuring friends are aware of the current watch or warning in their area.

Tornadoes struck approximately 46 states, caused over \$1.6 billion in damage and nearly 70 fatalities. There were more than 935 tornadoes in 2012, with 206 in April alone. While April and May are peak months, tornadoes happen all year round.

Building a [Weather-Ready Nation](#) requires that every individual and community take action because severe weather knows no boundaries and affects us all. *Be a Force of Nature* by making a public pledge to be prepared at [ready.gov/severe-weather](http://ready.gov/severe-weather).

**What can you do to Prepare?**

Knowing your risk, taking action and being an example by sharing your knowledge and actions through your social network are just a few steps you can take to be better prepared and assist in saving lives.

**Know Your Risk:** The first step to becoming weather-ready is to understand the type of hazardous weather that can affect where you live and work, and how the weather could impact you and your family. Every state in the United States has experienced tornadoes and severe weather, so everyone is exposed to some degree of risk. **[Personalize risk for specific area]**. Check the weather forecast regularly and visit [ready.gov/severe-weather](http://ready.gov/severe-weather) to learn more about how to be better prepared and how you can protect your family during emergencies.

**Pledge and Take Action:** *Be Force of Nature* by taking the *Pledge to Prepare* at [ready.gov/severe-weather](http://ready.gov/severe-weather). When you pledge to prepare, you will take the first step to making sure that you and your family are prepared for severe weather. This includes filling out your [family communications plan](#) that you can email to yourself, putting an [emergency kit](#) together, keeping important papers and valuables in a safe place, and [getting involved](#).

Obtain a [NOAA Weather Radio](#), and check to see if your cell phone is equipped to receive [Wireless Emergency Alerts](#) and sign up for localized alerts from emergency management officials. Stay informed by having multiple sources for weather alerts - [NOAA Weather Radio](#), [Weather.gov](#), and [Wireless Emergency Alerts](#). Subscribe to receive alerts at [www.weather.gov/subscribe](http://www.weather.gov/subscribe).

**Be an Example:** Once you have taken action and pledged to *Be a Force of Nature*, share your story with your family and friends. Create a video and post on a video sharing site; post your story on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, [comment on a blog](#), or share through any other social media site. Technology today makes it easier than ever to be a good example and share the steps you took to help us achieve the vision of a Weather-Ready Nation. Join us today and [pledge to prepare](#) for the severe weather in our area.

Information on the different types of severe weather such as tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flooding is available at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) and [ready.gov/severe-weather](http://ready.gov/severe-weather) or the Spanish-language web site [www.listo.gov](http://www.listo.gov).