

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Tommy F. Grier, Jr. - Director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bill Owens
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Governor Proclaims April 24 – 30, 2005 Severe Weather Awareness Week in Colorado

(DENVER) – Governor Bill Owens has declared April 24 – 30, 2005, Colorado Severe Weather Awareness Week noting that, “...experience has demonstrated that a well-informed and prepared public...can reduce the loss of life and damage to property when threatened by Colorado’s severe weather extremes.”

On a weekend earlier this month, sunny Colorado basked in 70 degree weather on a Saturday, but on Sunday a blizzard swept through leaving at least 11,000 homes without power. All flights out of Denver International Airport and Colorado Springs Airport were canceled. Hundreds of travelers were stranded at the Denver airport and along highways as a blizzard blew across eastern Colorado with wet, heavy snow. Fat, moisture-laden snowflakes were blown sideways by wind gusting to 30 mph, closing highways throughout the Front Range and to the east. Though snow from this 2005 storm melted quickly, the Colorado Blizzard of March 2003 left people stranded in their homes for days.

Colorado Division of Emergency Management Director Tom Grier stresses that preparedness begins with the individual. “Folks who listen to the forecasts and the warnings, who have a plan – food, water, medications, and essential items stored – will fare better every time when we get socked in by Colorado’s severe weather.”

Spring in Colorado means extremes in weather patterns: storms that can produce extremely high winds, damaging hail, flash flooding, and devastating tornadoes. Coloradans can prepare for severe weather, help lessen the damage and destruction it causes, and help protect their lives and property if they are aware of precautions they can take before and during severe weather events.

The Colorado Division of Emergency Management is teaming with the National Weather Service and local emergency managers for this 2005 Severe Weather Awareness Week. For information on what Coloradans can do to take responsibility and prepare for disasters, visit the Colorado Division of Emergency Management website at: <http://www.dola.state.co.us/oem/> and click on “Severe Weather Awareness Week.”

NOAA’s National Weather Service websites have an abundance of severe weather information:

NWS in Boulder: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/den/>; NWS in Grand Junction:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gjt/index.html>; and NWS in Pueblo: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pub/>.

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