State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, in recent years, citizens across New York State have experienced several types of severe weather events that disrupted their daily lives and threatened personal safety and public property, including Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and Superstorm Sandy; and

Whereas, to ensure the safety of our citizens, the public safety and emergency management communities of the Empire State, in cooperation with the volunteer and private sectors, continue to develop and nurture partnerships with government at all levels to alert New Yorkers of impending severe storms and weather hazards; and

Whereas, over the past three years, New York State has been hit by some of the most destructive storms in our history; in order to improve our state's emergency preparedness and response capabilities, and ensure that our residents are prepared for severe weather events, four new commissions were established to conduct a comprehensive review of our emergency response capabilities and preparedness levels in the energy, health care, transportation, water, communications, and other sectors; one of the key objectives of these efforts is to enhance Citizen Preparedness; and

Whereas, the Citizen Preparedness Corps Training program that was launched earlier this year aims to provide approximately 100,000 New Yorkers with the tools and resources to prepare for emergencies and disasters, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions; and

Whereas, the National Weather Service is a critical component of this effort, operating five offices that serve the Empire State and continually striving to improve its capability to monitor and track hazardous weather systems and enhance its capability to warn the public when such severe weather and storms are imminent; and

Whereas, each spring, the National Weather Service conducts a communications exercise that provides governmental, private and volunteer partners the opportunity to practice skills usually applied under stress, and provides public safety and preparedness officials, broadcast media and all New Yorkers the opportunity to test methods of receiving emergency weather messages and plans for responding to a weather emergency; and

Whereas, all members of this public-private partnership are encouraged to improve efforts to plan and train for severe weather events to protect our citizens and communities – especially through the annual Severe Weather Awareness Week communications drills – in order to maintain the highest levels of preparedness for such dangerous weather hazards;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 27 - May 3, 2014 as

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-third day of April in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor