



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

February 14, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: 2014 Tornado Drill**

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the next Statewide Tornado Drill will take place Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at 9:45 a.m. *The Code of Virginia* in § 22.1-137.1 requires all public schools to participate in at least one tornado drill each year. Participation in the March 11 statewide tornado drill will fulfill that requirement. *Schools may choose an alternate date or time if this is not convenient.*

For information on planning a drill and registering for the Statewide Tornado Drill, go to [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov) and click on the tornado graphic. Registration for the drill is not required but does track statewide participation. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) is requesting that schools register for the 2014 drill individually rather than by school division.

Since 2011, 67 tornadoes have struck Virginia, affecting nearly every part of the state. In April 2011, ten people died and more than 100 were injured when dozens of tornadoes struck. At least 212 homes and 17 businesses were destroyed, and more than 1,050 homes and businesses were damaged.

Questions about the Statewide Tornado Drill can be directed to Laura Southard, VDEM public outreach coordinator, at (804) 897-6510, or by e-mail at [laura.southard@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:laura.southard@vdem.virginia.gov).

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