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Severe Weather Awareness Weather Week State officials are urging Nebraskans to prepare for spring thunderstorms, tornadoes and floods.

The warning came in advance of spring severe weather. Gov. Dave Heineman proclaimed March 19-23 as Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Al Berndt, assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, says residents should start preparing now.

Nebraska had its first-ever confirmed tornado in February, and nearly 20 tornadoes were reported on June 20. State officials also faced record flooding last year on the Platte and Missouri rivers.

**Associated Press**