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### **Reedsburg becomes a National Weather Service StormReady® city**

National Weather Service officials have recognized Reedsburg as a StormReady® city. The [StormReady®](#) program helps community leaders and residents better prepare for hazardous weather and flooding. StormReady® communities have made a strong commitment to implement the infrastructure and systems needed to save lives and protect property when severe weather strikes.

Tim Halbach, Warning Coordination Meteorologist of the National Weather Service forecast office in Milwaukee, will present city officials with special StormReady® sign during a meeting at the Reedsburg City Hall Council Chamber at 134 South Locust St on Monday, March 26th at 7 pm.

“Reedsburg is particularly susceptible to hazardous weather each year, mainly due to potential flooding along the Baraboo River. The efforts by city Emergency Management have gone above and beyond to make sure that both local residents are prepared for when severe weather occurs,” said Tim Halbach, Warning Coordination Meteorologist.

“I am excited that Reedsburg has become a StormReady city and is being recognized by the National Weather Service,” said Josh Kowalke, Reedsburg Emergency Management Director. “We have the potential to experience many different weather events in Reedsburg such as flooding, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. The process of becoming StormReady has prepared the different city departments by identifying locations of storm shelters and making sure they have the weather notification systems in place.”

The nationwide community preparedness program, founded in 1999, is a grassroots approach to preparing for natural hazards. Today, more than 2,700 U.S. communities are better prepared for severe weather through the StormReady program.

To be recognized as StormReady®, a community must maintain a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; have more than one way to receive National Weather Service warnings and to alert the public; be able to monitor local weather and flood conditions; conduct community preparedness programs; and ensure hazardous weather and flooding are addressed in formal emergency management plans, which include training [SKYWARN®](#) weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

The StormReady program is part of the National Weather Service's working partnership with the [International Association of Emergency Managers](#) and the [National Emergency Management Association](#). The StormReady recognition is valid for three years and can be renewed.

The NWS's Milwaukee Forecast Office, located in Sullivan, Wi., is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for about 3 million people in 20 Wisconsin counties. Join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Working with partners, the [National Weather Service](#) is building a [Weather-Ready Nation](#) to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather.

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*StormReady® is a registered trademark used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*