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Ozaukee County becomes a National Weather Service StormReady county

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

“Ozaukee County has always been at the fore front of preparedness when it comes to hazardous weather. Ozaukee County has numerous concerns when it comes to the weather which includes dense fog along the interstate to severe thunderstorms to winter storms and also marine hazards on Lake Michigan, so there is much to prepare for. Ozaukee County Emergency Management has gone above and beyond to be as prepared as possible for these potential disasters,” said Tim Halbach, NWS Milwaukee Warning Coordination Meteorologist.

“This represents a significant effort by not only Emergency Management, but other county departments and partners such as all of the municipalities in Ozaukee County, School Districts, Ozaukee County Amateur Radio Emergency Services as well as several private non-profit groups. We have engaged in specific planning for severe weather events both on land as well as for Lake Michigan. We offer yearly training to our first responders as well as the public on how to be safe in severe weather and prepare for the potential impacts. Another key function is keeping other agencies and the public informed of hazardous weather potential as amplification of weather warnings to our residents and visitors,” said Scott Ziegler, Ozaukee County Emergency Management Director

The nationwide community preparedness program, founded in 1999, is a grassroots approach to preparing for natural hazards. Today, more than 3,200 U.S. communities are better prepared for severe weather through the StormReady program.

To be recognized as StormReady, a county 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 National Weather Service's Milwaukee/Sullivan Forecast Office](#), located in Dousman, WI., is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for about 3 million people in 20 southern 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.