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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2015

Shorewood School District becomes a National Weather Service StormReady Supporter

National Weather Service officials have recognized the Shorewood School District as a StormReady Supporter. The StormReady Supporter program is part of the larger StormReady program, a grass roots program designed to help communities establish severe weather safety plans and actively promote weather awareness. 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/Sullivan, will present the Shorewood School District with a certificate during a ceremony at the Shorewood School Board meeting on Tuesday, November 24th at 7pm.

"The staff at the Shorewood School District is taking a proactive approach to ensure that staff and students at their schools are safe from severe weather. Southeast Wisconsin is a very active area for severe weather when school is in session and outdoor activities are taking place. Plans have been developed for when hazardous weather occurs across the Shorewood School District thanks to the work of Pat Miller (Director of Business Services), Deb Stolz (Director of Recreation and Community Services) and Mark McGinnis (Consulting Meteorologist). The parents of students within the Shorewood School District should be very happy with the steps the district has taken to ensure the safety of the students there," said Tim Halbach, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Milwaukee.

"The StormReady process provided the District the opportunity to develop and review our inclement weather procedures. These procedures will assist the District with safety preparedness and communication to our students, parents and staff," said Deb Stolz, Director of Shorewood Recreation and Community Services.

The nationwide community preparedness program, founded in 1999, is a grassroots approach to preparing for natural hazards. Today, more than 2,200 StormReady communities and nearly 400 StormReady Supporters throughout the nation help citizens become better prepared for severe weather.

To be recognized as StormReady Supporter, an organization must promote the principles and most guidelines of the StormReady program, which includes maintaining a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; having more than one way to receive National Weather Service warnings and to alert the public; monitoring local weather and flood conditions; conducting community preparedness programs; and ensuring hazardous weather and flooding are addressed in formal emergency management plans, which include training SKYWARN® weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

The National Weather Service's Milwaukee Forecast Office, located in Dousman, 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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