

When Seconds Count  
StormReady Communities  
Are Prepared



*Photo courtesy of Jim Reed*

Many laws and regulations help local emergency managers deal with hazardous material spills, search and rescue operations, and medical crises but there are few guidelines dealing with hazardous weather operations.

Recognizing this need, the National Weather Service designed StormReady to help cities, counties, and towns implement procedures to reduce the potential for disastrous, weather-related, consequences.



Is Your Community  
Ready When the  
Weather Changes?

How Can I Learn More About  
StormReady?

For more information about StormReady visit the  
StormReady website at:  
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready/>

or

Contact the Warning Coordination Meteorologist  
at your local NWS forecast office



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
National Weather Service  
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**Make Your  
Community**

# **StormReady**

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



*Emergency workers and citizens sift through tornado wreckage.*

Americans live in the most severe weather-prone country on earth. Each year a startling 10,000 thunderstorms, 2,500 floods, 1,000 tornadoes, and 10 hurricanes impact the United States. Potentially deadly severe weather impacts every American. Communities can now rely on the National Weather Service's StormReady program to help them guard against the ravages of Mother Nature.

## **What Is StormReady?**

Ninety percent of all presidentially declared disasters are weather related. Through the StormReady program, NOAA's National Weather Service gives communities the skills and education needed to survive severe weather -- before and during the event. StormReady helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen their local hazardous weather operations.

## **StormReady Does Not mean Storm Proof**

StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education and awareness. Communities have fewer fatalities and property damage if they plan before dangerous weather arrives. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives.

## **How Can My Community Become StormReady?**

The entire community -- from the mayor and emergency managers, to business leaders and civic groups -- can take the lead on becoming StormReady. Local National Weather Service forecast offices work with communities to complete an application and review process. To be recognized as StormReady, a community must:

- ✓ Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- ✓ Have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public;
- ✓ Create a system that monitors local weather conditions;
- ✓ Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars;
- ✓ Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.