

Oro Valley Police Department Recognized as 2019 Weather Ready Nation Ambassador of Excellence

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) have developed the Weather Ready Nation (WRN) Ambassador Initiative to help improve the nation's readiness, responsiveness, and overall resilience against extreme weather, water, and climate events. WRN Ambassadors extend across government, non-profits,

academia, and private industry and share the goal of making the nation more ready, responsive, and resilient against extreme environmental hazards. Nationwide, there are nearly 10,000 WRN Ambassadors committed to working with NOAA, the NWS and other Ambassadors to strengthen resilience against extreme weather.



Oro Valley Police Department's Lt. John Teachout, Emergency Management and Safety Coordinator Char Ackerman, NWS Tucson Warning Coordination Meteorologist Ken Drozd, and Officer Travis Boyka

This year, NWS Tucson nominated the Oro Valley Police Department (OVPD) as the 2019 Ambassador of Excellence for its diligence in keeping Town departments, residents, schools, and businesses informed about hazardous weather and weather safety. In conjunction with existing community outreach programs, OVPD provides information about weather related hazards such as flash flooding, lightning, microbursts, and extreme heat.

OVPD's Emergency Management and Safety Coordinator Char Ackerman said that while keeping the community safe is paramount to the police department's mission, various Town departments, Golder Ranch Fire District, Pima County Office of Emergency Management, and other local response agencies work together to promote weather preparedness. OVPD is the key organization involved in maintaining the town's status as a StormReady Community. Through this collaboration with the NWS, they maintain their preparedness for hazardous weather events and relay NWS information prior to, during, and after such events.

NWS Tucson now has around 70 local Weather Ready Nation Ambassadors across Southeast Arizona. The Ambassador initiative recognizes leaders in the community that help build community resilience in the face of extreme weather events – from promoting safety messages in outreach activities, to being a “weather-ready” role model. Any organization can become a Weather Ready Nation Ambassador. Schools, government agencies, private businesses, civic organizations, homeowner associations and others can apply online at [weather.gov/wrn/ambassadors](https://www.weather.gov/wrn/ambassadors). If you have questions about the WRN Ambassador initiative or the online application, please contact Ken Drozd at kenneth.drozd@noaa.gov