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Operations and Services
Service Outreach, NWSPD 10-18

THE STORMREADY® RECOGNITION PROGRAM

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSI 10-1802, *The StormReady Recognition Program*, dated June 28, 2019. Changes made include:

- Most sections within this updated instruction contain edits providing greater clarity, more accurate or appropriate language (e.g., pronouns).
- Section 1.2 StormReady Recognition Guidelines has been completely overhauled to reflect the updated application.
- Section 1.3 and throughout the document, “America’s Weather and Climate Industry” is changed to “Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise” partners.
- Starting with Section 2.1 and found in many sections, and the removal of sections 2.5.1, 2.5.2 and 2.5.3, this revision removes the formation of Local, Regional and National StormReady Advisory Boards.
- Section 3.2 Application Review is overhauled to remove onerous and redundant actions.
- Section 4.2.1 Renewal of StormReady Recognition has significant changes to implement efficiencies (e.g., virtual visits) and the change the renewal period from 3 to 4 years.
- Section 6.1 National Flood Insurance Program is significantly shortened to remove content not directly relevant to the StormReady Program.
- Section 6.2 (StormReady Hero Award) and Section 6.3 (StormReady Champion Award) have been removed.
- Appendix A has been updated to reflect the current Application form.
- Per Biennial Review Requirement: Updated page 1: New Signature/date; Updated Date of Supplement.

October 11, 2023

Allison Allen
Director

Date

Analyze, Forecast and Support Office

The StormReady Recognition Program

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1 The StormReady® Program Objective

The National Weather Service's (NWS) Weather-Ready Nation initiative is about building community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather and water events. The devastating impacts of extreme events can be reduced through improved readiness. The StormReady® program (www.weather.gov/stormready) is a partnership with emergency management and other safety officials that helps reduce risk and increases community resilience to hazards.

Since the program's inception in Oklahoma in 1999, over 2,000 counties, cities, towns, universities, indigenous communities, commercial sites, government facilities and military installations have been recognized as StormReady. The program recognizes emergency management programs that meet the StormReady guidelines, demonstrating outstanding preparedness for hazardous weather and flooding. StormReady ensures jurisdictions have a standard level of emergency planning and communication capabilities. An effective StormReady Program, focusing on relationships¹ as much as the requirements, is essential for NWS to fulfill its mission of protecting life and property, and enhancing our Nation's economy.

By participating in StormReady, emergency managers and other safety officials can earn recognition for their community (or organization) by meeting the program's guidelines. The StormReady Program is intended to:

- Reduce fatalities, injuries and minimize property damage through timely distribution, receipt and effective communication of hazardous weather information and warnings between the NWS, emergency managers and public
- Provide detailed and clear recommendations officials may use to establish or improve hazardous weather and flood planning, operations and public response
- Empower Americans to make better decisions before, during, and after weather hazards through community preparedness
- Establish and maintain a strong two-way relationship between StormReady contacts (officials) and their weather service providers (NWS for Core Partner contacts) to ensure these results are met.

StormReady communities have made a strong commitment to implement the infrastructure and systems needed to save lives and protect property when hazardous weather and flooding strikes. StormReady is a voluntary program that directly supports NWS' strategic vision of a "Weather-Ready Nation."

NOTE: Implied or explicit references to "guidelines" or "requirements" are made only with regard to the voluntary participants in the StormReady program and should not be construed as being state, tribal or federal mandates.

1.1 StormReady Program Definitions

StormReady Community: An indigenous community*, local government† entity, or facility‡ that has the authority and ability to adopt the StormReady recognition guidelines within its

¹ These relationships with NWS will vary based on whether the applicant is an NWS Core Partner or not.

jurisdiction.

***The term “indigenous community” means** the governing body of any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe under the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 [25 U.S.C. 479a et seq. January 3, 2012].

†The term “local government” means:

- A county, parish, borough, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government
- An Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization that is not an Indian tribal government
- A rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity, for which an application for assistance is made by a State or political subdivision of a State.

[From Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.; section 5122, as amended by Public Law 113-2, January 29, 2013]

‡The term “facility” for a StormReady community includes but is not limited to: universities, colleges, military installations, state/national parks, power plants/utilities, major transportation centers (i.e., airports, harbors, ports, railroad stations and other large transit complexes), theme parks/entertainment complexes, corporate business complexes, factories and large event venues (i.e., stadiums, arenas, race tracks, convention centers and other venues that temporarily host large gatherings of people).

StormReady Supporter: An organization, business, facility, or local government entity that has authority to adopt the StormReady recognition guidelines within its purview, actively promotes the principals of StormReady, but does not have the ability to meet all of the recognition guidelines.

Some examples of potential StormReady Supporters might include, but are not limited to: businesses, churches, hospitals, shopping centers, malls, utilities, museums, aquariums, individual schools, villages, small communities and broadcasters/broadcast stations.

An unfamiliar/unknown entity applying for StormReady “Supporter” status should also receive endorsement from local emergency management within the applying entity’s county or parish jurisdiction.

StormReady Sites: A generic term used to collectively identify all categories of StormReady communities but not Supporter entities.

Communications/Dispatch Center: Agency or interagency dispatch centers, 911 call centers, emergency control or command dispatch centers, or other facilities and staff who handle emergency calls from the public and communication with emergency management/response

personnel.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support incident management (on-scene operations) activities normally takes place. An EOC may be a temporary facility, a permanently established facility or located at a higher level of organization within a jurisdiction. EOCs may be organized by major functional disciplines (e.g., fire, law enforcement, medical services), by jurisdiction (e.g., federal, state, regional, tribal, city, county), or by some combination thereof.

24-Hour Warning Point (WP): A communication facility at a state or local level, operating 24 hours a day, which has the capability to receive NWS alerts and warnings, plus has the authority and ability to activate the public warning systems in its area of responsibility.

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP): A document maintained by various jurisdictional levels setting procedures for responding to a wide variety of potential hazards. It should include the following:

- Describe how people and property will be protected
- Detail who is responsible for carrying out specific actions
- Identify the personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies, and other resources available
- Outline how all actions will be coordinated.

Emergency Management/Response Personnel: Includes federal, state, territorial, tribal, sub-state regional, and local governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), private sector organizations, critical infrastructure owners and operators, and all other organizations and individuals who assume an emergency management role.

Incident: An occurrence, natural or manmade, that requires a response to protect life or property. Incidents can, for example, include major disasters, emergencies, terrorist attacks, terrorist threats, civil unrest, wildland and urban fires, floods, hazardous materials spills, nuclear accidents, aircraft accidents, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms, tsunamis, war-related disasters, public health and medical emergencies, and other occurrences requiring an emergency response.

Integrated Warning Team: An NWS office level or state level team that consists of government emergency management, Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise² partners, (typically the broadcast media), and the NWS, that share the common goal and responsibility of improving the warning system and reducing fatalities, injuries and property damage due to natural hazards.

1.2 StormReady Recognition Guidelines

StormReady guidelines have been designed to improve community resiliency through Emergency

² The Weather/Water/Climate Enterprise includes all entities in the public, private, nonprofit, research, and academic sectors that provide information, services, and infrastructure in the areas of weather, water, and climate. The private sector component includes all elements of the private sector (including media, consultants, equipment providers, etc.) which provide services to the public in the areas of weather, water and climate, broadly defined (e.g., includes all NWS service program areas). The term does not exclude foreign-owned companies which provide services to the American public.

Manager/ Public Safety Official or (similar designee) partnerships³. These guidelines help StormReady communities to strengthen emergency planning, ensure the flow of hazardous weather information, and improve weather support for a variety of situations. Additionally, the required standards help to increase the familiarization with NWS (or other non-NWS meteorological providers) services, products, and support tools while enhancing community preparedness efforts.

1. General Information: Organizational contact information will be key when following up with participating communities for re-recognition, and other aspects of the StormReady program.
2. Emergency Operations Planning: To ensure hazardous weather planning remains updated and includes a conduit for effective reception and dissemination of information, instructions for EOC (or similar facility) activation, and the flexibility to incorporate a reliable source of weather information, or toolkits, for large public events.
3. Coordination and Partnership Development: Provides the conduit to strengthen the partnership between the NWS and SR community through the participation in drills/exercises, collaborative meetings, NWS familiarization, and accessibility of critical decision support information.
4. Community Preparedness: Participation in the Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador (or similar non-NWS) Program along with the involvement in a variety of educational public engagement activities is a key component of building community resiliency.

For a detailed listing of the StormReady guidelines, please refer to the [StormReady Application Form OMB Control # 0648-0419](#) and Appendix A for a description of requirements for each guideline. Note that not all communities have a dispatch center or warning point since they may share services, or do not have 24-hour operations.

***Note:** It is only necessary for “facilities” that are designated as “StormReady Communities” (reference definition in [section 1.1](#)) to have WP and EOC capabilities during business operations and/or when the facility is open to the public. See [Appendix A](#) for a detailed listing of the StormReady guidelines.

1.3 Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise Partners

Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise partners are key partners in helping the NWS fulfill its mission. StormReady guidelines may be satisfied by incorporating products, data, and services provided by Weather, Water and Climate Enterprise partners.

2 Authorities and Responsibilities

2.1 Weather Forecast Offices

It is the responsibility of each Weather Forecast Office’s (WFO’s) Warning Coordination

³ The nature of these partnerships with NWS will vary based on whether or not the StormReady contact is an NWS Core Partner.

Meteorologist (WCM) or designee, to implement and manage the StormReady Program within their County Warning and Forecast Area (CWFA). This includes the following:

- Works with emergency managers or designated StormReady points of contact by:
 - Assisting with application process and verifying the content of the application
 - Archiving StormReady applications
 - Arranging for an optional recognition ceremony
 - Helping facilitate any training requirements
 - Planning for and following up on renewal process
- Reviews and verifies all StormReady applications
- Coordinates news releases with the NOAA Public Affairs
- Adds recognitions to the NWS Headquarters Analyze, Forecast and Support Office StormReady database
- Mentors and trains WFO staff in the StormReady Program
- Promotes the StormReady Program
- Implements service improvements to the StormReady Program
- Reports StormReady activities (e.g., meetings with emergency managers, hazards preparedness education in communities, verification visits, ceremonies) through the NWS Outreach and Education Event System as per [NWS Instruction \(NWSI\) 10-1804](#).

WCMs are required to inform applicants who represent large event venues about NWS policy for support of special events and the role of Weather, Water and Climate Enterprise partners in providing weather information in support of their operations. For more information, please reference:

- *NWSI 10-1806 NWS Support for Special Events*
- *Special Events Flyer*

WCMs/designees should also inform applicants that StormReady requirements in the application may be satisfied by incorporating data/services provided by Weather, Water and Climate Enterprise.

2.2 Regional Headquarters

The Regional Director is the first-line supervisor of the Regional Division Chiefs, River Forecast Center Hydrologists-In-Charge (HICs) and WFO MICs, and assigns StormReady Program responsibilities for the region. It is the responsibility of the Regional StormReady Program Manager, typically the Regional WCM, to manage the StormReady Program on a regional basis. This includes the following:

- Coordinating StormReady programmatic, budgetary, and policy issues with NWS Headquarters on behalf of their region's WFOs/WCMs
- Directing and overseeing service improvements to the StormReady Program
- When available, managing the Regional budget and other resources for the StormReady Program
- Coordinating news releases with NOAA Public Affairs
- As necessary, developing and maintaining regional supplements to this national directive.

2.3 NWS Headquarters - Analyze, Forecast and Support Office

The National Weather Service Headquarters (NWSH) Analyze, Forecast and Support Office (AFS) is responsible for a variety of activities supporting the StormReady Program. The AFS Director assigns StormReady Program responsibilities for AFS.

2.3.1 AFS Decision Support Integration Branch

It is the responsibility of the AFSSO Preparedness and Resilience Program Manager to manage the StormReady Program on a national basis. This includes the following:

- Coordinates StormReady programmatic, budgetary, and policy issues within National Headquarters on behalf of our Regional Headquarters and local WCMs/designees
- Directs and oversees service improvements to the StormReady Program
- Manages the national budget and other resources for the StormReady Program
- Procures and manages national resources such as StormReady recognition signs, brochures, templates, and other tools
- Coordinates news releases with NOAA Public Affairs
- Oversees the national StormReady database and website
- Coordinates StormReady Award nominations between Local, State and/or Regional StormReady Boards and the National StormReady Board
- Serves as the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) for this procedural directive
- Coordinates with the AFS Tsunami Program Manager/designee on TsunamiReady programmatic linkages/dependencies with StormReady
- As necessary, develops and maintains memoranda of understanding or memoranda of agreement with national partners.

2.4 StormReady Applicants

StormReady applicants are responsible for working with their local WCM/designee throughout the StormReady recognition process. This includes:

- Working with the local WCM/designee on the verification of the completed application (section 3.2.1 below)
- Coordinating information for the optional recognition news release and ceremony
- Maintaining or improving on the site's compliance with StormReady guidelines throughout the valid period of the StormReady recognition
- Apprising the local WCM/designee about candidates for StormReady Awards
- Working with the local WCM/designee on renewal of the StormReady recognition (typically started within 6 months prior to the renewal date).

3 StormReady Application Process

The application for StormReady recognition is a formal process requiring the following:

- Emergency Manager, or StormReady point of contact, submitting an application form
- Local NWS office verifying the information
- If needed, local NWS office works with other NWS offices and EMs on an individual basis for application input
- NWS office providing formal notification of site recognition.

StormReady application forms are cleared through the White House's Office of Management and Budget and will not be modified. StormReady application forms are available on the NWS StormReady website at: www.weather.gov/stormready/become.

3.1 Application Submission

StormReady and StormReady Supporter applications should be sent to the local WCM. If a hard copy is utilized, it should be scanned into an electronic format by the WCM and stored locally. While much of the application is a basic accounting of technology, a brief narrative describing preparedness and planning activities is necessary and will help assess how hazardous weather is addressed in the emergency operations plan, exercises, and public safety programs.

Note: Coastal communities that are already recognized or become TsunamiReady can also be recognized as StormReady as StormReady requirements are contained within the TsunamiReady application. Information should be transferred to the StormReady application for submission into the StormReady database, but no additional verification or site visit is needed.

Some applicants may have jurisdiction over a community and surrounding unincorporated areas. In these cases, a single application is sufficient, with the combined populations used to determine the appropriate guideline categories. If a community earns StormReady recognition, the unincorporated communities will be included in the recognition, but are not individually recognized.

3.2 Application Review

The local NWS office reviews all StormReady and StormReady Supporter applications for the office's area of responsibility and verifies the information with the applicant. The NWS office should notify the applicant if the application is not complete or all requirements validated. The NWS office should provide guidance to help overcome any obstacles in completing the application successfully.

If a community disputes a decision made by the local NWS office, and the dispute cannot be resolved by the WFO and StormReady applicant, the dispute can be settled with assistance from other NWS offices/regions and/or other nearby EMs.

3.2.1 Verification of Application Information

The local WCM verifies application information with the applicant. This can be done through an in person site visit or virtually.

In general, verification of an application by the NWS office includes the following:

- Confirmation of the EOC and/or warning point's ability to receive and relay NWS hazardous weather information
- Confirm the EOP has been updated within the last two years, and includes information about activation and how to request support for reliable weather information
- Verify that the applicant has participated in NWS partner meetings or workshops (or similar collaborative events with non-NWS service providers)
- Participation in an actual event, drill, or exercise that included a weather emphasis or

- component in their operations
- Signed up for NWSChat 2.0 (or similar weather coordination program from a non-NWS service for those who aren't NWS Core Partners), and any relevant blast/notification lists to receive weather information
- Participated in an office visit or familiarization meeting
- Signed up for the WRNA, or similar preparedness/outreach program
- Conducted community or other outreach events that distributed/promoted weather safety information through their organization
- Promoted or facilitated storm spotter or weather safety training in their community.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the local NWS office to ensure that the principals of StormReady are being properly applied and the NWS mission is being served.

4 StormReady Recognition Process

Once the StormReady Site or StormReady Supporter application is approved, the local WCM enters the information in the national StormReady database. The applicant is notified through a formal recognition letter from the local MIC or WCM. A site is recognized for four (4) years from the date of the official letter of recognition. Communities covered under a county recognition should be listed on this letter. This date is the one the WCM enters into the AFS national StormReady database as the recognition date.

When the WCM enters the new site into the database, the site has the option to request a StormReady Recognition sign ([Appendix B](#)) (Note: signs are only available through AFS when funding is available for procurement). In addition, the site will receive:

- StormReady Certificate of Recognition
- Authorization to use the StormReady logo
- Instructions for acquiring additional signs
- Information concerning possible adjustment to insurance rates under the National Flood Insurance Program ([section 6.1](#)).

Recognition signs are suitable for display in, around or on buildings (e.g., courthouses, libraries, town halls, EOCs, etc.) or in high foot traffic areas like along bike and walking paths. They should not be placed along roadways as they may not meet the requirements for letter size based on speed limit.. StormReady recognition signs are not approved by the Federal Highway Administration.

Once the site is approved, the local WCM may work with the StormReady community on an optional news release and/or recognition ceremony. The community will also now be listed on the national StormReady website.

4.1 StormReady Recognition Ceremony

The local WCM should coordinate details of any recognition announcement and/or ceremony with the successful applicant. A typical ceremony includes a formal media announcement and may be a combination of the following:

- Unveiling of the official StormReady sign
- Presentation of a Certificate of Recognition
- Press conference.

The NWS StormReady website and the AFS Integrated Database for Education and Awareness (<https://verification.nws.noaa.gov/IDEA/index.aspx> - NOAA internal) offer more information and examples of recognition materials.

4.2 StormReady Renewals and Revocation

If a formal concern is raised about a recognized jurisdiction, the WCM will review the issue and determine its validity. Valid concerns, if they are not corrected by the jurisdiction, may result in the revocation of StormReady status (see [Section 4.4](#)).

4.2.1 Renewal of StormReady Recognition

StormReady recognition will be valid for four (4) years from the date of recognition. This date will be entered in the national StormReady database as the recognition date. Six (6) months prior to the expiration of the recognition, the StormReady database automatically sends a renewal reminder to the local WCM/designee. Following the applicable guidelines published at the time of the notification, the local WCM/designee coordinates with the point of contact from the jurisdiction to verify the original application information is still valid. Once verified, the local WCM/designee notes this in the WFO's records and updates the renewal date in the StormReady database. The StormReady recognition renewal is then valid for an additional four (4) years, eight (8) total years, from the date of the original recognition. The local NWS office then notifies the site's point of contact regarding the approval of the renewal. Subsequently, every four (4) years afterwards would require an email or letter stating guidelines are being followed, and every eight (8) years would require a new StormReady application.

If the anniversary date for a renewal passes, a community will not immediately lose its StormReady status if it has communicated to the local WCM/designee it is ready and willing to accomplish the renewal. Every effort should be made to achieve renewal and remain in the program. Communities should be removed if they request removal or state they don't want to renew. NWS offices should be flexible to the timing if their intent is to renew. Once the renewal is finally completed, the local WCM/designee updates the StormReady database indicating the renewal. In this situation, the anniversary date will be changed to reflect the renewal date, rather than the date from the original official letter of recognition. For example, if the initial renewal was May 22, 2024, and the site does not renew until October 29, 2024, the renewal date would be October 29, 2028. This rule only applies to sites where renewal was significantly delayed (> six (6) months). For sites who are proactive and renew early, the anniversary date from the date of the official letter of recognition will not change.

4.2.2 StormReady Recognition Status Revocation

A jurisdiction will only lose its StormReady status if it fails to renew its recognition as outlined above. The following actions will be taken:

- The local WCM, will provide notification to the jurisdiction.
- The local WCM should also notify the P&R Program Lead in AFS and update the

- national StormReady database and website.
- P&R Program Lead will notify NFIP staff.
- WCMs may ask for the removal of StormReady signs within the jurisdiction.

5 StormReady Supporter

Businesses, schools and other non-governmental entities often establish severe weather safety plans and actively participate in and promote severe weather safety awareness activities. Many of these entities do not have the resources necessary to fulfill the eligibility requirements for StormReady Site recognition status. An entity that promotes the principles and guidelines of the StormReady Program, but does not meet the guidelines for StormReady Site recognition may be eligible to be designated as a StormReady Supporter. StormReady recognition of the county or community in which the entity resides is not a requirement to achieve the Supporter designation.

5.1 StormReady Supporter Applications, Recognitions, and Renewals

If the local WFO participates and supports the optional StormReady Supporter Program, then entities should complete the Supporter application on the national StormReady website (www.weather.gov/stormready/become) and submit it to their local WCM/designee for review. The WCM/designee verifies the information with the applicant and may immediately approve the application. If an application indicates the guidelines are not met, the applicant will be notified about changes needed to meet the respective guidelines.

A StormReady Supporter receives a StormReady Supporter Certificate dated and signed by the local WCM/MIC. The date printed on the StormReady Supporter Certificate will be considered the official date of the Supporter designation and is valid for up to five (5) years. The local WCM/designee, in consultation with the local government emergency manager, may prepare an optional news release and/or ceremony. Upon request, the successful StormReady Supporter applicant will receive the following:

- StormReady Supporter Certificate of Recognition
- Authorization to use the StormReady logo
- Listing on the national StormReady website.

Once approved, the local WCM notes the site in the WFO's records and enters the Supporter into the national StormReady database.

Six (6) months prior to the expiration of the Supporter recognition, the national StormReady database sends an automated email to the local WCM. Following the applicable Supporter guidelines, the local WCM coordinates with the point of contact from the Supporter entity to verify the original application is in order. Once verified, the local WCM notes this in the WFO's records and updates the StormReady database. The local WCM then notifies the point of contact from the jurisdiction for their records. If the local WCM is unable to verify the Supporter's renewal or if the Supporter entity no longer wishes to participate, the local WCM will delete the site from the national StormReady database.

6 StormReady Incentives

StormReady communities (and StormReady Supporters) are better prepared to save lives from

hazardous weather and flooding through advanced planning, education and awareness. No community is storm proof, but becoming StormReady can help communities save lives. Some incentives for participation in StormReady include:

- Proven to help save lives during severe weather and flood events
- Improves coordination and timeliness of hazardous weather dissemination, reception, and response
- Strengthens the working relationship between emergency managers and the NWS (for NWS Core Partners)
- Provides a means for acquiring up to 55 Insurance Services Office/Community Rating System points to possibly lower National Flood Insurance Program premiums
- Helps emergency managers justify costs and purchases related to their hazardous weather programs
- Rewards local hazardous weather mitigation programs that have achieved a desired performance level
- Improves community image and shows that the EMs and city are working hard to protect their residents
- Encourages hazardous weather preparedness programs in surrounding jurisdictions
- Supports equity of underserved/vulnerable segments of the community.

6.1 National Flood Insurance Program

As a part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), FEMA developed the Community Rating System (CRS) to provide incentives and tools to further all-hazards, pre-disaster mitigation. Under the CRS, communities can be rewarded for doing more than simply regulating construction of new buildings to the minimum national standards. The 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual (<http://crsresources.org>) spells out the credits and credit criteria for community activities and programs that go above and beyond the minimum requirements for participation in the NFIP.

Under section 610 — *Flood Warning and Response Activities* — of the CRS Coordinator's Manual, jurisdictions recognized by NWS as StormReady can receive **25** community rating points towards lowering their flood insurance rates. A community can participate in both the StormReady and TsunamiReady programs and receive credit for both elements, SRC (25) and TRC (30) for up to **55** total community rating points. [Reference pp. 610-1 through 610-19, [2013 CRS Coordinator's Manual](#), FIA-15/2013].

In addition, both the StormReady and TsunamiReady programs recognize communities that conduct community preparedness outreach and education on flood hazards. Those efforts can contribute to a community's earning of additional community rating points under the section 330 CRS — *Outreach Projects* — of the CRS Coordinator's Manual. [Reference pp. 330-1 through 330-21, [2013 CRS Coordinator's Manual](#), FIA-15/2013].

CRS credits for StormReady are not automatically granted to each local jurisdiction that receives the StormReady designation. The 25 points are provided for obtaining and maintaining the designation as a NWS StormReady community AND meeting the following CRS prerequisites as outlined in section 611.b — *Activity Credit Criteria* — of the CRS Coordinator's Manual:

1. A Flood Threat Recognition (FTR) system that provides the community with the earliest possible detection that a flood is imminent. [Reference pp. 610-5 & 6]
2. Emergency Warning Dissemination (EWD) capability that provides emergency warning alerts and messages to the public when a flood is imminent. [Reference pp. 610-8 through 610-11]
3. A flood warning and response plan that details a Flood Response Operations (FRO) capability and that has been adopted by the community's governing body. This is likely addressed through the community's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). [Reference pp. 610-3, 4 & 11-15]
4. Critical Facilities Planning (CFP) - The community has coordinated its warning and response program with its critical facilities. [Reference pp. 610-15 through 610-17]
5. The community has completed a risk assessment for flooding as part of their floodplain management or hazard mitigation plan, or completed the CRS Community Self-Assessment. [Reference pp. 610-3]
6. The community has a flood inundation map(s) that shows areas that are inundated by at least three different flood and/or storm surge levels. [Reference pp. 610-3 & 4]
7. The community implements one or more outreach projects that tells its residents and businesses how they will be warned and the safety measures they should take during a flood. [Reference pp. 610-4 & 5]
8. There is at least one exercise and evaluation of the flood warning and response plan each year. [Reference pp. 610-5].

Jurisdictions should notify their Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO)/Community Rating System (CRS) Specialist [Reference CRS contacts at <http://crsresources.org/100-2/>] once they are officially recognized as StormReady by the NWS. The ISO/CRS Specialist is an employee of the ISO, FEMA's CRS management contractor. The ISO/CRS Specialist will base this credit on the NWS listing of StormReady jurisdictions posted at www.weather.gov/stormready. For communities within a county recognition, occasionally the StormReady letter of recognition must be provided showing that community is covered under the county's recognition.

**APPENDIX A
StormReady Recognition Guidelines***

Section 1 - General Information		
In the application include the name of the organization, primary/secondary contact information, EOC (or similar facility phone number/address, and 911 Center/24 Hour Warning Point phone number/address.		

Section 2 - Emergency Operations Planning		
Guideline 2.1 - The number of sources the EOC and/or other facilities (such as a dispatch center, warning point, security center, etc.) have to receive official hazardous weather information.	Population <15,000	Population >15,000
	2	3
Guideline 2.2 - The ways the EOC, &/or other facilities (such as a dispatch center, warning point, security center, etc.) is able to relay official watch/warning information to the public and/or organizational staff.	2	3
Guideline 2.3 - Emergency Operations Plan (or similar plan or weather annex) is updated with state/FEMA or an organization's time requirements. <i>(Note: If there are no formal requirements then updates are recommended every 2 years. Additionally, the most impactful and most common weather-related hazards should be addressed in the plan).</i>		X
Guideline 2.4 - Plan has instructions for EOC, or similar facility, to activate and request weather support for events such as HAZMATs, SARs, large public venues, etc. The plan should also include information about local warning relays and contain procedures for reporting severe weather or other emergencies which require weather support.		X
Guideline 2.5 - Plans account for hazardous weather and have a reliable source of weather information for any large public events through a weather support service.		X

Section 3 - Coordination and Partnership Development		
Guideline 3.1 - Participation in <u>at least one partner meeting or workshop every two years.</u> <i>(Note: This is not a requirement for non-government EM, or non-government Safety Official applicants).</i>		X
Guideline 3.2 - Participation in <u>at least one actual event, drill, or exercise every two years</u> that included a weather emphasis or component with your operations.		X
Guideline 3.3 - EM or Public Safety Official team is registered, and familiar with, NWSChat 2.0 or similar weather coordination application/program from a non-NWS service. <i>(Note: This is not a requirement for non-government organizations.).</i>		X
Guideline 3.4 - <u>At least two representatives</u> from the organization receive weather information from the local NWS office, or non-NWS service, through blast/notification		X

email distribution lists.	
Guideline 3.5 - EM or Public Safety Official team utilizes a distribution list consisting of community or organizational staff, leadership, and partners (i.e. school administration, law enforcement, fire departments, critical facilities, etc.) to forward NWS, or non-NWS services, briefings for hazardous weather events.	X
Guideline 3.6 - Participation in an office visit, familiarization meeting, or virtual visit with local NWS staff to learn more about products/services available from the NWS and what may be available from non-NWS service providers. <i>(Note: After the initial recognition this guideline is only required when there is a new EM, Public Safety Official, or Safety Coordinator. This is not required for non-government organizations but is recommended.)</i>	X

Section 4 - Community Preparedness		
Guideline 4.1 - Participation in the Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador program. Participation in at least one similar non-NWS preparedness/outreach program is optional.		X
Guideline 4.2 - The organization participates in community events or other outreach efforts used to distribute and promote weather safety information <u>every two years</u> . Community events may include public presentations, educational activities with schools, safety fairs/booths, virtual engagements, etc. Other outreach may include social media posts, websites, brochure distribution, etc.	Population <15,000	Population >15,000
	2	3
Guideline 4.3 - Help facilitate a storm spotter or weather safety training event in your community or help share information about any nearby or virtual events <u>at least once every two years</u> .		X

* StormReady guidelines may be satisfied by incorporating data/services provided by America’s Weather and Climate Industry.

** For cities or towns with less than 15,000 people, a 24-hour WP and EOC capability are required; however, another jurisdiction within the county may provide that resource. Please reference † Note below in Guideline 1.1 for more details.

Guideline Requirements and Additional Information

Section 1 - General Information

Contact information is required in Section 1 including primary and secondary contact phone numbers and email addresses, as well as the phone numbers and physical addresses of the community's EOC (or similar facility) and 911 Center/24 Hour Warning Point.

Section 2 - Emergency Operations Planning

Guideline 2.1: There must be at least two ways (recommended three or more ways for populations >15,000) to receive official hazardous weather information. Possible sources include:

- *iNWS*
- *NOAA Weather Radio*
- *Text alerts or mobile apps*
- *NWSChat*
- *Email alerts, etc.*

Guideline 2.2: There must be at least two ways (recommended three or more ways for populations >15,000) to relay official watch/warning information. Possible sources include:

- *reverse 911*
- *social media*
- *website*
- *email distribution list*
- *mass notification systems*
- *local cable TV override, etc.*

Note: not all communities have a dispatch center or warning point since they share services, or do not have 24 hour operations.

Guideline 2.3: A complete review of the community's Emergency Operations Plan is conducted in accordance with state and/or FEMA requirements.

Guideline 2.4: The EOP must include instructions for activating the EOC (or similar facility) and local warning relays. In addition, the plan must include procedures for reporting severe weather or other emergencies which require weather support.

Guideline 2.5: Planning and establishing a reliable source of weather information is needed for large public events.

Section 3 - Coordination and Partnership Development

Guideline 3.1: Government EM or Public Safety Official participation in at least one partner meeting or workshop every two years after recognition is required. This is not a requirement for non-government EM or non-government Safety Official applicants.

Guideline 3.2: One event, or drill/exercise, involving the community's operations is required every two years.

Guideline 3.3: It is required that your team is signed up and familiar with NWSChat, or at least one other non-NWS service weather coordination application. This is not a requirement for non-government organizations.

Guideline 3.4: It is required that at least two representatives from the organization are included on a blast or email

distribution list.

Guideline 3.5: The utilization of a distribution list to share NWS or non-NWS services briefings for hazardous weather events is required.

Guideline 3.6: A familiarization meeting with the local NWS (could be virtual) is conducted to learn about services and support capabilities. Organizations may alternatively use similar services from non-NWS meteorological providers. After the initial recognition this guideline is only required when there is a new EM, Public Safety Official, or Safety Coordinator. This is not required for non-government organizations, but is recommended.

Section 4 - Community Preparedness

Guideline 4.1: Participation in the Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador Program is required. Participation in at least one similar non-NWS preparedness/outreach program is optional.

Guideline 4.2: At least two community and/or outreach efforts are conducted every two years (recommended three or more for populations >15,000 every two years). Community events may include:

- *public presentations*
- *educational activities with schools*
- *participation in safety fairs or booths*
- *virtual engagements, etc.*

Other outreach efforts may include:

- *relevant social media posts*
- *organizational websites*
- *brochure distribution, etc.*

Guideline 4.3: Help share information about a virtual storm spotter or weather safety training event, and/or help to facilitate/organize at least one storm spotter or weather safety training event every 2 years.

APPENDIX B
StormReady Recognition Sign



Above: NWS StormReady Recognition sign.