StormReady Toolkit For Emergency Managers

This Toolkit provides guidance for emergency managers and local officials who are applying for the NWS StormReady program. It gives an overview of the StormReady program, describes the application process, provides a sample of the StormReady application, answers frequently asked questions and provides resources and contact points to help.

What's Is the StormReady Program?

StormReady is a nationwide program that helps communities better protect their citizens during severe weather—from tornadoes to tsunamis. The program encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations. StormReady provides emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations.

Nearly 90% of all presidentially declared disasters are weather related, leading to around 500 deaths per year and nearly \$14 billion in damage. To help Americans guard against the ravages of severe weather, the National Weather Service (NWS) has designed the StormReady program. StormReady arms America's communities with the communication and safety skills they need to save lives and property.

Many laws and regulations exist to help local emergency managers deal with hazardous material spills, search and rescue operations, medical crises, etc., but there are few guidelines dealing with the specifics of hazardous weather response. NWS recognized this need and designed StormReady—a program to help communities of all kinds: towns, cities, counties, Tribal Nations, Universities and industrial complexes implement procedures to reduce the potential for disastrous, weather-related, consequences. To be certified as StormReady, communities must meet guidelines established by the NWS in partnership with federal, state, and local emergency management professionals. The StormReady program is intended to:

- < Improve the timeliness and effectiveness of hazardous weather warnings for the public.
- Provide detailed and clear recommendations which will help local emergency managers establish and improve effective hazardous weather operations.
- < Help local emergency managers justify costs and purchases needed to support their hazardous weather-related program.
- < Reward local hazardous-weather mitigation programs that have achieved a desired performance level.
- < Provide a means of acquiring additional Community Rating System points assigned by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

- < Provide an "image incentive" to communities, which once certified, can identify themselves as StormReady.
- < Encourage the enhancement of hazardous weather preparedness programs in jurisdictions surrounding StormReady communities and counties.

StormReady is a voluntary program offered to provide guidance and incentive to officials interested in improving their hazardous weather operations. Implied or explicit references to "requirements" are made with regard to the voluntary participants in the StormReady program and should *not* be construed as being state or federal mandates.

How Will Becoming StormReady Benefit My Community?

When your major roads display StormReady signs, residents, business owners and visitors know you are committed to safety and preparedness. StormReady tells the community that their emergency management staff takes safety seriously.

What to We Have To Do?

To become StormReady a community or county must:

- < Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- < Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally
- < 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.

How Do We Get Started?

First, fill out the written application in this kit and submit it to your local NWS office. You can find your local office online by county at http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.htm or in this toolkit by area.

Applicants with jurisdiction over a community and unincorporated areas of the surrounding county only need to submit one application. StormReady staff will use the combined populations to determine the right category.

While much of the application is a basic list of technology, you will need to provide a brief narrative describing preparedness and planning activities to help staff members assess programs such as your hazardous weather plan, emergency exercises and public safety programs.

Once your application is reviewed by StormReady Review Board, a team will arrange for a visit to your community to formally discuss the application.

How Long Will it Take

There is no set time frame for becoming StormReady. Once you have submitted your application, the local board will review it, arrange a visit, notify you of any deficiencies or approve your office and recommend that your community be recognized. The process can take anywhere from a few weeks to several months.

How Will the Public Know My Community is StormReady?

Once your community is officially recognized, you will receive:

- < A formal notification letter from your local NWS Office Director
- < Two StormReady signs suitable for display along roadways
- < Authorization to use the StormReady logo in media releases and other materials
- < Instructions for acquiring additional roadway signs
- < Information concerning the notification of the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) for possible adjustment to insurance rates.
- < Listing on the National StormReady Website and on national and state maps showing official StormReady sites: http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/communities.htm

How Long Does the Recognition Last?

Recognition lasts for three years from the date of the formal announcement. After three years, you are strongly encouraged to renew your status in the program. Renewal ensures you are maintaining the programs requirements.

What Does the Program Cost?

There is no cost to apply to the StormReady Program. You may need to upgrade your emergency preparedness operation to meet StormReady criteria. Established Emergency Management programs may incur little or no additional expense.

How to Contact Your Local NWS Office

The best way to find your local NWS office is to go to: http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.htm

The Website provides maps showing exactly which NWS office covers your county. The list below lists offices by state, however, your county may be covered by an office in an adjoining state. The Website offers the clearest information on which office can best serve you.

Alabama:	Birmingham (205) 664-3010			See also: Tallahassee, FL
Alaska:	Anchorage (907) 266-5117	Fairbanks (907) 458-3712	Juneau (907) 790-6803	
Arkansas:	Little Rock (501) 834-9102	See also: Tulsa, OK; Men	nphis, TN, Shreveport, LA;	Jackson, MS
Arizona:	Phoenix (602) 275-7417	Flagstaff (520) 556-9161	Tucson (520) 670-5156	See also: Las Vegas, NV
California:	Eureka (707) 443-6484	Sacramento (916) 979-3041	San Francisco (831) 656-1725	Hanford (559) 584-0581
	Los Angeles (805) 988-6610	San Diego (858) 675-8706	See also: Phoenix, AZ; M Reno and Las Vegas, NV;	
Colorado:	Denver/Boulder (303) 494-3210	Grand Junction (970) 243-7007	Pueblo (719) 948-9429	See also: Goodland, KS
Connecticut:	Boston (508) 823-1900	Albany (518) 435-9568	New York City (631) 924-0037	
Delaware:	Philadelphia (609) 261-6600			
Florida:	Jacksonville (904) 741-4370	Key West (305) 295-1316	Melbourne (407) 255-0212	Miami (305) 229-4522
	Tallahassee (850) 942-8833	Tampa Bay Area (813) 645-2323	See also: Mobile, AL	
Georgia:	Atlanta (770) 486-1333	See also: Greenville, Char Jacksonville and Tallahas		
Guam:	Tiyan (671) 472-7423			
Hawaii:	Honolulu (808) 973-5275			

Illinois: Chicago (815) 834-0600 Lincoln (217) 732-4029 See also: Davenport, IA; Paducaln, KY; on St. Louis, MO Indiana: Indianapolis (317) 856-0361 Northern Indiana (219) 834-1104 See also: Chicago, IL; Cincinnati, OH; Couisville and Paducaln, KY Iowa: pse Moines (515) 270-4501 Quad Cities (319) 391-6729 See also: Sioux Falls, SD; LaCrosse, WI; Omaha, NE Kansas: Dodge City (316) 227-7140 Goodland (785) 899-7119 Topeka (785) 232-1493 Wichita (316) 942-8483 Kentucky: Jackson (606) 666-4856 Louisville (502) 969-8842 Paducah (270) 744-6440 Verall (270) 744-6440 Louisiana: Lake Charles (504) 522-7330 Shreveport (318) 631-3669 See also: Bealso: (318) 477-5285 Shew Orleans (318) 631-3669 See also: Mackson, MS Maine: Caribou (207) 496-8931 Portland (207) 688-3216 Pittsburgh (412) 262-1591 Varyang (757) 899-4200 Massachusetts: Boston (609) 261-6600 Pittsburgh (412) 262-1591 Varyang (757) 899-4200 Massachusetts: Boston (609) 261-6600 Grand Rapids (616) 956-5922 Marquette (906) 475-5782 See also: Northern Indiama, IN Free also: Northern Indiama, IN Minnesota: Duluth (218) 729-0	Idaho:	Boise (208) 334-9860	Pocatello See also: Spokane, WA; Missoula (208) 233-0834 Salt Lake City, UT; Riverton, WY			
Iowa: Des Moines (515) 270-4501 Quad Cities (319) 391-6729 See also: Sioux Falls, SD; LaCrosse, WI; Omaha, NE Kansas: Dodge City (316) 227-7140 Goodland (785) 899-7119 Topeka (785) 232-1493 Wichita (316) 942-8483 Kentucky: Jackson (606) 666-4856 Louisville (502) 969-8842 Paducah (270) 744-6440 See also: Cincinati, OH; Charleston, WV Louisiana: Lake Charles (318) 477-5285 New Orleans (504) 522-7330 Shreveport (318) 631-3669 See also: Jackson, MS Maine: Caribud (207) 496-8931 Portland (207) 688-3216 Pittsburgh (412) 262-1591 Wakefield, Va (757) 899-4200 Massachusetts: Boston (508) 823-1900 Albany (518) 435-9568 Grand Rapids (616) 956-5922 Marquette (906) 475-5782 Michigan: Detroit (248) 625-3309 Grand Forks (701) 772-0720 Minneapolis (952) 361-6670 Marquette (906) 475-5782 See also: Grand Forks, ND; Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, SD; LaCrosse, WI Mississippi: Jackson (601) 936-2189 See Also: Memphis, TN: Mobile, AL; New Orleans, LA	Illinois:	C		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
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	Mississippi:		See Also: Memphis, TN:	Mobile, AL; New Orleans,	LA	
	Missouri:	•				

See also: Davenport, IA; Paducah, KY; Memphis, TN

 Montana:
 Great Falls
 Glasgow
 Billings
 Missoula

 (406) 453-2081
 (406) 228-2850
 (406) 652-0851
 (406) 329-4841

See also: Riverton, WY;

Nebraska: Hastings North Platte Omaha

(402) 462-2127 (308) 532-4936 (402) 359-2394

See also: Sioux Falls, SD; Goodland, KS; Cheyenne, WY

Nevada: Elko Las Vegas Reno

(775) 738-3018 (702) 263-9744 (775) 673-8107

New Hampshire: Boston Portland

(508) 823-1900 (207) 688-3216

New Jersey: Philadelphia New York City

(609) 261-6600 (631) 924-0037

New Mexico: Albuquerque See Also: El Paso and Midland, TX

(505) 243-0702

 New York:
 Albany
 Binghamton
 Buffalo
 New York City

 (518) 435-9568
 (607) 770-9531
 (716) 565-0204
 (631) 924-0037

See also: Burlington, VT

North Carolina: Morehead City Raleigh Wilmington

(919) 223-5122 (919) 515-8209 (910) 762-4289

See also: Roanoke and Wakefield, VA; Knoxville, TN; Greenville, SC

North Dakota: Bismarck Grand Forks, ND

(701) 250-4224 (701) 772-0720

Ohio: Cleveland Willmington See also: Northern Indiana, Pittsburgh, PA

(216) 265-2370 (937) 383-0031 Charleston, WV

Oklahoma: Oklahoma City Tulsa See also: Shreveport, LA; Amarillo, TX

(405) 366-6583 (918) 832-4115

 Oregon:
 Portland
 Pendleton
 Medford
 See also:

 (503) 261-9247
 (541) 276-7832
 (541) 773-1067
 Boise, ID

Pennsylvania: Philadelphia Pittsburgh State College

(609) 261-6600 (412) 262-1591 (811) 231-9412

See also: Cleveland, OH; Binghamton, NW

Puerto Rico: Puerto Rico/V.I.

(787) 253-4586

Rhode Island: Boston

(508) 823-1900

South Carolina: Charleston Columbia Greer See also:

(843) 744-3207 (803) 765-5501 (864) 848-1332 Wilmington, NC

South Dakota: Aberdeen Rapid City Sioux falls

(605) 225-5547 (605) 341-9271 (605) 330-4247

Tennessee: Knoxville Memphis Nashville

(423) 586-9040 (901) 544-0399 (615) 754-8506

Texas: Amarillo Austin/San Antonio Brownsville Corpus Christi

(806) 335-1121 (830) 629-0130 (956) 504-3354 (361) 289-0959

El Paso Dallas/Fort Worth Houston Lubbock (505) 589-4088 (817) 429-2631 (281) 337-5074 (806) 745-3916

Midland/Odessa San Angelo See also: Lake Charles and Shreveport, LA;

(915) 563-5006 (915) 944-9445 Oklahoma City, OK

Utah: Salt Lake City See also: Grand Junction, CO

(801) 524-5113

Vermont: Burlington See also: Albany, NY (802) 862-2475

Virginia: Blacksburg Sterling Wakefield

(540) 552-0084 (703) 260-0107 (757) 899-4200

See also: Charleston, WV; Knoxville, TN

Washington: Seattle Spokane See also: Pendleton and Portland, OR

(206) 526-6095 (509) 244-0110

West Virginia: Charleston See also: Pittsburgh, PA; Sterling and Roanoke, VA

(304) 746-0173

Wisconsin: Green Bay La Crosse Milwaukee

(920) 494-5845 (608) 784-8275 (414) 297-3243

See also: Minneapolis and Duluth, MN

Wyoming: Cheyenne Riverton See also: Billings, MT; Rapid City, SD

(307) 772-2468 (307) 857-3898 Salt Lake City, UT

StormReady Web Site Information

National StormReady Homepage: http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/

National Weather Service Homepage: http://www.nws.noaa.gov

U.S. Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov (used to obtain the population of your County or Community. This information is needed to fill out your StormReady application)

StormReady Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the difference between StormReady and FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program?

A: StormReady is a volunteer program which is separate from FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. However, the two programs compliment each other by focusing on communication, mitigation, and community preparedness to save lives.

Q: Is StormReady a grant program?

A: No. There is no grant money associated with being recognized as "StormReady". However, the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) may provide Community Ratings System (CRS) points to StormReady communities, which may be applied toward lowering NFIP flood insurance rates.

Q: Will it cost my community anything?

A: Any investment by the community will depend on current assets. Established Emergency Management programs may incur little additional expense, while others may require more of an investment. There greatest costs involved may be with upgrading a communities reception and dissemination infrastructure to meet established StormReady guidelines.

Q: Is other funding (beside the NWS) available to help us become/improve our StormReady program? (i.e., government/private sector?)

A: There are no direct funds available from the NWS. However, other government and/or private sector partners may work with your community to obtain funds that will help you meet StormReady guidelines.

O: Why is the NWS requiring me to do this?

A: StormReady is a voluntary program, but we think it is worth our investment if we can save lives. The NWS recognizes those communities that are better prepared for weather emergencies.

Q: I saw the StormReady guidelines on the national web site. Why does my local NWS Office have different guidelines?

A: National StormReady guidelines were designed to establish the minimum requirements for the program. However, many areas of the country have very specific weather-related needs which local NWS Offices consider during weather emergency planning with emergency management and community officials. As a result, StormReady allows the creation of Local StormReady Advisory Boards that have the flexibility to create specific by-laws for their area. Local Boards can also modify National StormReady guidelines to meet their specific customer needs.

Q: What constitutes a community?

A: StormReady defines "community" as a group of people within a locality that have common social and economic interests with an infrastructure that supports the communication and education role of the National Weather Service to protect lives and property. References to "community" in this document include cities, towns, universities, Indian Nations, and government and private entities. References to "county" includes parish.

O: OK, I meet the requirements. When do I get my signs?

A: Once you meet the requirements, you are not far from being recognized as a StormReady community. You will receive two signs during your StormReady Presentation Ceremony. However, you will first need to send the application to the NWS. From there it will go to your Local StormReady Advisory Board made up of Emergency Management, the NWS, and other local/state officials. The board will review the application, and set up a site visit to verify the information in the application. If the board determines that you do not completely meet all requirements, they will make suggestions for improvement to help you meet all the necessary guidelines.

Q: How long is my StormReady recognition good for?

A: StormReady recognition is granted for a period of 3 years from the date your local NWS Office, Meteorologist-In-Charge signs your communities official recognition letter.

Q: Where can I post my StormReady signs?

A: Anywhere that you'd like too. Most communities have posted their signs in public buildings such as EOC's, County Courthouses, and Public Libraries, while other recipients have posted the signs on key roads within their community.

Q: I understand that StormReady guidelines may be updated annually. Which set of guidelines will be applied to my application?

A: The guidelines that are in effect at the time you initially applied will be used to evaluate your application.

Q: What are the requirements for re-certification?

A: Subsequent renewals require a community to go through the application process again. This helps to ensure that equipment is in place and updated, contact information is accurate, and allows for improvements to be made to the program using technological advances in communications and warning dissemination. Local NWS Office's will send a letter informing the community of the upcoming renewal date and direct them to current StormReady guidelines and applications.

Q: I've heard of a program called TsunamiReady. Are StormReady and TsunamiReady the same thing?

A: TsunamiReady is a companion program to StormReady that promotes tsunami hazard preparedness as an active collaboration among federal, state, and local emergency management agencies, the public, and the NWS tsunami warning system. The preparedness guidelines of the two programs differ slightly, but both are designed to improve public safety during severe weather and tsunami emergencies.

Q: How to I order more StormReady or TsunamiReady signs?

A: StormReady communities can purchase additional 2x2' signs from the Oklahoma Correction Industries (OCI) at a cost of about \$25 each, plus shipping. When ordering, ask for the "National Weather Service StormReady or TsunamiReady Sign" and specify whether you want StormReady COUNTY signs or StormReady COMMUNITY signs. OCI's phone number is 405-962-7007. Fax: 405-962-7022.

StormReady TsunamiReady

Community Information						
County/City/To	own			Population		
Primary Point of Contact			Secondary	Point of Conta	ct	
Name			Name			
Office			Office			
Title			Title			
Mailing Address			Mailing Address			
City			City			
State; ZIP			State; ZIP			
Phone			Phone			
e-mail			e-mail			
Guideline 1:		Commu	nications			
Location of 24	-Hour	· Warning Point	Location of	f Emergency O _l	perations Co	enter
Verification Team G	General	Notes:				
Renewal Comments	is:					
				<u>Da</u>	ite:	Initials:
Note: Please do	o not v	vrite in shaded areas.				

Guideline 2: NWS Information Reception Equipment							
Warning Point # Required # Verif	Verif	EOC # Required # Verif	Verif				
□ NOAA Weather Radio (Required if in range)		□ NOAA Weather Radio (Required if in range)					
□ NOAA Weather Wire (Subscription)		□ NOAA Weather Wire (Subscription)					
□ EMWIN		□ EMWIN					
☐ Law Enforcement Teletype (LETS)		☐ Law Enforcement Teletype (LETS)					
☐ Amateur Radio		☐ Amateur Radio					
☐ Pagers* (Warning reception)		☐ Pagers* (Warning reception)					
☐ Television (Local network or cable TV)		☐ Television (Local network or Cable TV)					
☐ Radio (AM/FM) - EAS reception		☐ Radio (AM/FM) - EAS Reception					
□ NAWAS		□ NAWAS					
☐ Internet (Subscription for alerts)		☐ Internet (Subscription for alerts)					
□ Commercial Data Service		□ Commercial Data					
☐ Other*							
□ Other*							
List any additional ca	apabilit	ies on a separate sheet					
*Capabilities needing explanation:							
Verification Team Notes:							
Renewal Comments:							
	<u>Date:</u> <u>Initials:</u>						
Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.							



Guideline 3: Local Weather & Water Monitoring Equipment							
Warning Point # Required # Verif	Verif	EOC # Required # Verif	Verif				
☐ Anemometer (Wind gauge)		☐ Anemometer (Wind gauge)					
☐ Rain Gauge		☐ Rain Gauge					
☐ River Gauge		☐ River Gauge					
☐ Locally owned Radar		☐ Locally owned Radar					
□ Internet Radar Source		☐ Internet Radar Source					
☐ Internet Weather Station		☐ Internet Weather Station					
□ TV Radar Source		□ TV Radar Source					
Other*		□ Other*					
Other*		□ Other*					
List any additional	capabil	ities on a separate sheet					
*Capabilities needing explanation:							
<u>Verifi</u>	ication T	eam Notes:					
Renewal Comments:							
		<u>Date:</u> <u>Initials:</u>					
Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.							



Guideline 4: Local Warning Dissemination							
Warning Point # Required # Verif	Verif	EOC # Required # Verif	Verif				
☐ Outdoor Warning Siren(s)		☐ Outdoor Warning Siren(s)					
☐ Cable TV Override		☐ Cable TV Override					
☐ Plan for Sirens on Emergency Vehicles		☐ Plan for Sirens on Emergency Vehicles					
□ Local Alert Broadcast System*		☐ Local Alert Broadcast System*					
☐ Local Pager System* (For dissemination)		☐ Local Pager System* (For dissemination)					
☐ Telephone Tree to Critical Facilities		☐ Telephone Tree to Critical Facilities*					
☐ Coordinated Area-Wide Radio Network*		☐ Coordinated Area-Wide Radio Network*					
☐ Local Flood Warning System*		☐ Local Flood Warning System*					
□ Other*		Other*					
□ Other*		□ Other*					
List any additional	capabili	ities on a separate sheet					
*Capabilities needing explanation:							
<u>Verification Team Notes:</u>							
Renewal Comments:							
Date: Initials:							
Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.							

StormReady TsunamiReady

Local Government-Owned Buildings in Which Public Traffic is Common					
Office	Location or Address	Tone Alert NOAA Weather Radio	Verif	Con	nments
Warning Point					
EOC					
City Hall					
School Superintendent					
<u>Verification Team Notes:</u>					
Renewal Comments:					
				<u>Date:</u>	Initials:
Note: Please do not write in sha	ded areas.				



Gu	Guideline 5: Community Preparedness					
	Annual Safety Talks # Required # Verif					
	Date	Topic	Location	Spe	aker	
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
		List any additional safety to	alks on a separate sheet			
		Community Tsunami Awar			Verif	
П	Designate/estab	lish tsunami shelter/area in safe zone.				
		mi evacuation areas and evacuation routes,	and install evacuation route sign	ıs		
		locally specific tsunami hazard response ma				
				vide safety		
	☐ Encourage schools to implement a tsunami hazard curriculum, practice evacuations, and provide safety material to staff and students.					
Number of annual tsunami awareness campaigns:						
	Weather Radio Purchase Program					
Ha:	s your communit iipped Weather I	y/county developed a program to subsidize Radios for its citizens? (Not required) Yes			AME)	
lf ye	equipped Weather Radios for its citizens? (Not required) Yes No If yes, provide details:					
		Other Community Pre	paredness Activities			
	Date	Activity	Location	Organize	er	
1						
2						
3	3					
List any additional activities on a separate sheet						
Ren	Renewal Comments:					
				<u> </u>		
	<u>Date:</u> <u>Initials:</u>					
No	te [.] Please do n	oot write in shaded areas				

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StormReady TsunamiReady

Guideline 6: Administrative Tools/Record Kee	ping		Verif	Renewal			
Formal Tsunami Hazard and Hazardous Weather Operations F	es es		□ Yes				
Weather Service Office in real-time < EOC Activation Procedures < Spotter Activation Criteria	□ Y	• •		□ Yes			
Warning Point personnel has authority to activate Warning Sys	tem (written)	es		☐ Yes			
Spotter Roster and Training Record	□Y	es		☐ Yes			
Last Visit by Emergency Manager to NWS Office			Biennial				
Last Visit by NWS Officials to Community			☐ Annual				
Last NWS Spotter Training for Spotters and Dispatchers			Biennial				
Last NWS Spotter Training Hosted/Co-Hosted (For populations	>40,000)		☐ Annual				
Exercises Topic(s):	Date:			<u>Date:</u>			
List any additional descriptions, narratives, or do	cumentation on a sepa	rate she	eet				
Verification Team Notes:	Verification Team Notes:						
Renewal Comments:							
		Date:	<u>Initi</u>	als:			
Signature of Applying	g Official						
Application Submitted by (print name):							
Office:	<u>Title:</u>						
Signature: Date:							
NWS Personnel Receiving Application (print name):							
Date Received:							
Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.							

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Site Verification Team Signatures					
Print Name:					
Office:	Title:				
Signature:	Date:				
Print Name:					
Office:	Title:				
Signature:	Date:				
Print Name:					
Office:	Title:				
Signature:	Date:				
Print Name:					
Office:	<u>Title:</u>				
Signature:	Date:				
Signature in Renewal Year					
Application Submitted by: (print name):					
Office:	<u>Title:</u>				
Signature:	Date:				
NWS Personnel Receiving Application (print name):					
Date Received:					

"Are You Storm Ready?"



