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CATAWBA COUNTY ACHIEVES NATIONAL CERTIFICATION AS STORMREADY

by
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On May 8th, Catawba County was recognized by NOAA's National Weather Service as StormReady®.

StormReady is a national certification program to recognize communities that meet specific requirements in preparedness for severe weather and flooding. To become StormReady Catawba County met stringent criteria focusing on both internal and external communication, alert systems, reception and understanding of hazardous weather, community outreach, and a comprehensive all-hazards emergency operations plan.



Anthony Sturey of the National Weather Service (center) recently presented official “StormReady” signs to Karyn Yaussy, Catawba County Emergency Management Coordinator (left) and Bryan Blanton, Emergency Services Director.

Anthony Sturey, Warning Coordination Meteorologist of the National Weather Service forecast office in Greenville-Spartanburg, presented County Commission Chair Kitty Barnes and Emergency Management Coordinator Karyn Yaussy with recognition letters and StormReady signs at the June 18th Board of Commissioners meeting.

“Storm Ready should create a sense of pride among the citizenry in Catawba County,” said Sturey from the National Weather Service. “The Catawba County Emergency Management team understands the ferocity, and potential rapid onset, of violent weather conditions, and the importance of planning and preparedness in their communities. Their knowledge, coupled with a “weather ready community”, can save lives.”

Bryan Blanton, Director of Emergency Services for Catawba County elaborated “the county is better prepared to save lives from severe weather through our advanced planning, community education and increased awareness of high impact weather since working towards this certification. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives.”

The StormReady program is a part of the NOAA National Weather Service's working partnership with the International Association of Emergency Managers, the National Emergency Management Association and it compliments FEMA's national Hazard



Mitigation Program. The StormReady designation must be renewed by the county after three years.

NOAA's National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. NOAA's National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. Working with partners, NOAA's National Weather Service is building a [Weather-Ready Nation](#) to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather.

More information on how your family can be prepared for all kinds of severe weather or other natural disaster is available at www.ready.gov.

