



# MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Marion County receives StormReady designation**

**Pearl** – Marion County is the latest Mississippi community to receive the StormReady designation from the National Weather Service.

A ceremony honoring the community for achieving StormReady status will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Marion County Board of Supervisors at 215 Broad Street, Columbia. This makes 29 StormReady designations in Mississippi which includes 14 cities or towns, 13 counties and two state universities.

“Becoming StormReady is the result of a lot of hard work” said Marion County Emergency Management Director Charlie Conerly. “We started with our StormReady designation for Columbia but we are excited that we’ve been able to expand it to cover all the residents of the county.”

The city of Columbia was the fourth community in the state to receive the StormReady designation back in January 2002.

StormReady is a nationwide program of the weather service that helps communities protect their citizens during severe weather and encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations.

To be recognized as StormReady, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center.
- Have multiple ways 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.

“This designation of StormReady means residents in Marion County are better prepared for severe weather than ever before,” said MEMA Director Mike Womack. “It is our hope is that every Mississippi community will follow the example set by Marion County.”

To learn more about the StormReady program visit [www.stormready.noaa.gov](http://www.stormready.noaa.gov).

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