



# MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Bolivar County receives StormReady designation**

**Pearl** – In a ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m. this morning Bolivar County will become the latest Mississippi county to receive the StormReady designation from the National Weather Service.

The ceremony honoring the community for achieving StormReady status will be held at the Bolivar County Emergency Operations Center, 114 South Street, Cleveland. This makes 35 StormReady designations in Mississippi which includes 15 cities or towns, 17 counties and two state universities and one government site.

“The biggest winners in becoming StormReady are the residents of our county,” said Bolivar County Emergency Management Director Bill Quinton. “This means our residents can count on getting important storm related information which could protect them the next time severe weather threatens our area.”

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.

“Bolivar County has worked hard over the past several years to become StormReady,” said Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Director Mike Womack. “I hope every county and community will set the same goal to become StormReady.”

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

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