



Mississippi Emergency Management Agency News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Smith County, the most tornado-prone county in the nation, earns StormReady

Pearl – Smith County is now one of the most prepared communities for severe weather in the state as it has earned Mississippi's 41st StormReady designation. The National Weather Service will hold a ceremony at noon on Monday at the Smith County Emergency Operations Center located at 143 Main St. in Raleigh.

According to the National Weather Service, research from Mississippi State University showed that between 1950-2007 Smith County had the most days with tornadoes across the nation. NWS records show that since Jan 1, 2008, there have been 15 tornadoes that occurred on 11 days in Smith County.

“Our number one goal is to protect the citizens of Smith County, and being a part of the StormReady program is a great way to ensure that the public gets the information it needs when there is a weather-related emergency”, said Smith County Emergency Management Director Tate Revette. “Everyone in our county can be proud of this accomplishment.”

Mississippi has 16 cities or towns, 21 counties, three state universities and one government site designated as StormReady.

“Severe weather is the most common threat to our state,” said Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Director Mike Womack. “We are encouraged to see so many of our communities stepping up their efforts to become StormReady.”

StormReady is a nationwide program of the National 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.

To learn more about the StormReady program visit www.stormready.noaa.gov.

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