

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
AT YOUR SERVICE



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National Weather Service: County is 'StormReady'

NOAA's National Weather Service recognized San Bernardino County today for earning its StormReady® distinction. San Bernardino County is the largest county by area in the continental United States and the largest county to become StormReady thus far.

To earn the StormReady designation, county officials completed several steps to better prepare their residents for severe weather. StormReady requires implementation of a rigorous set of severe weather warning criteria and action plans to ensure public safety.

"StormReady encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations and public awareness," said Jim Purpura, meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service forecast office in San Diego. "The StormReady program has armed the county with improved communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property before and during a hazardous weather event."

"Nothing is more important to the county than the safety of our residents, and the National Weather Service has been an invaluable partner in our efforts to protect our residents," said San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary C. Ovitt. "We are very proud of the county's designation as a StormReady community."

Jim Purpura and Michael Staudenmaier, meteorologists-in-charge of the National Weather Service forecast offices in San Diego and Las Vegas respectively, will present a recognition letter and special StormReady signs to county officials during a board meeting today. StormReady recognition will be in effect for three years, after which the county will go through a renewal process.

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"StormReady fits well into our mission of preparing for all hazards," said Denise Benson, division manager of the San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services. "The safety of our residents is of the utmost concern, and the StormReady program helps us to work with our community members so we are all prepared for severe weather."

To earn StormReady designation, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour center for receiving National Weather Service warnings and an emergency operations center;
- Have redundant ways to receive weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public;
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions;
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars;
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan for training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources.

-30-

On the Web:

NOAA's National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov>

StormReady program: <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov>

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