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**NOAA's National Weather Service
Recognizes CBS4 WHBF-TV as a StormReady Supporter**

In a ceremony held earlier today, officials from NOAA's National Weather Service recognized CBS4 WHBF-TV for meeting rigorous guidelines necessary to earn the distinction of being a StormReady® Supporter. CBS4 is the second TV station in Illinois and the 7th in the U.S. to be honored with this recognition.

"WHBF-TV has developed a severe weather strategy that is at the same time practical and proactive," said Donna Dubberke, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office in the Quad Cities. "This StormReady recognition acknowledges their efforts and their exceptional commitment to the safety of both their viewing audience and their own staff."

"It was a fairly rigorous process," Andy McCray, Chief Meteorologist, CBS4 WHBF-TV, said. "Obviously, the National Weather Service takes the subject of severe weather seriously, and we do too. We share their high standards and this recognition is confirmation of that."

Marshall Porter, Senior V.P. & General Manager, CBS4 WHBF-TV, said "While we're certainly proud to be the first in the market to receive this designation, it's obviously not about accolades. We look at the StormReady recognition as simply a validation, from a very credible and reputable source, of the commitment we make as a station to our community and to the viewers we serve."

Stephan Kuhl, Meteorologist in Charge, National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office in the Quad Cities, presented the StormReady Supporter recognition at 10 am on Tuesday April 24 during a ceremony at WHBF-TV. Station officials received a certificate and StormReady sign. The StormReady Supporter recognition will be in effect for three years and then can be renewed.

"The United States is the most severe weather prone region of the world. The mission of the National Weather Service is to reduce the loss of life and property from these storms, and StormReady helps organizations evaluate their preparedness strategies," Stephan Kuhl said.

StormReady Supporters are local entities, such as businesses, hospitals, malls, schools, county extension agencies, etc., that promote the principles and guidelines of the StormReady program through severe weather safety and awareness plans. Entities interested in becoming StormReady Supporters should contact their local National Weather Service warning coordination meteorologist for further information about the program.

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On the Web:

NOAA's StormReady program:

www.stormready.noaa.gov

WHBF-TV:

www.whbf.com

NOAA's National Weather Service in the Quad Cities:

www.weather.gov/quadcities