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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NOAA's National Weather Service Recognizes Spring Valley, IL as StormReady**

In a ceremony to be held Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, officials from NOAA's National Weather Service will recognize the community of Spring Valley, Illinois for meeting rigorous guidelines necessary to earn the distinction of being StormReady®. Spring Valley is the 54<sup>th</sup> community in Illinois to be recognized as StormReady.

"Spring Valley has developed a severe weather strategy that is both practical and proactive," said Donna Dubberke, warning coordination meteorologist, National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office in the Quad Cities. "This StormReady designation recognizes their efforts and also acknowledges their growing role as a strong partner during severe weather events."

Stephan Kuhl, meteorologist in charge, National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office in the Quad Cities, will present the StormReady recognition at 7 pm on Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> during a ceremony at the Spring Valley council meeting. Community officials will receive a certificate and special StormReady signs. The StormReady 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 communities evaluate their preparedness strategies," Stephan Kuhl said.

To be recognized as StormReady, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- Have redundant ways to receive severe weather warnings and to alert the public;
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions;
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community education;
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

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On the Web:

NOAA's StormReady program: [www.stormready.noaa.gov](http://www.stormready.noaa.gov)

NOAA's National Weather Service in the Quad Cities: [www.weather.gov/quadcities](http://www.weather.gov/quadcities)