



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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City of New Berlin receives StormReady® Certification

Through continued efforts to increase resident safety in the face of severe weather, the City of New Berlin has earned its *StormReady*® certification. A *StormReady*® certification ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. March 25 in Council Chambers at City Hall, preceding the Common Council meeting. Marcia Cronce, a meteorologist from the National Weather Service's Milwaukee/Sullivan office will present the City with its certification. The media is encouraged to attend.

“The City of New Berlin is extremely proud to be the largest City in the State of Wisconsin to receive this certification to date,” stated Mayor Dave Ament. “This is just another example of our commitment to excellence. I am honored and proud of this StormReady certification and commend our resourceful staff for their dedicated efforts.”

StormReady® is a national community preparedness program that helps communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather. In general, a community must possess a solid communication network and have a comprehensive multi-hazard emergency operations plan. Specifically, in order to become *StormReady*®, the community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- Have multiple methods to receive and disseminate severe weather warnings and information for their community;
- Have various methods to monitor weather conditions locally;
- Promote the importance of public readiness;
- Develop a formal hazardous weather action plan, including severe weather spotter training and drills.

The City's efforts include continued Storm Spotter training of all police officers and firefighters, securing the donation of weather radios for all City buildings and working with area schools to enhance readiness.

“The StormReady certification recognizes the ongoing commitment to public safety by our emergency services agencies (police, fire and emergency management),” said Emergency Management Director Scott Schulpus. “It has further enhanced the city’s overall ability to provide early public warning and effective response and recovery efforts during a severe weather event. This certification serves as the capstone to our long-established severe weather preparedness programs within the City of New Berlin.”

Other communities in Wisconsin that have been designated *StormReady*® include the cities of Lake Mills, Whitewater, Cedarburg, Waupaca, Belleville, Viroqua, Dousman, Hillsboro, and Bayside; Lincoln, Oneida, Racine and St. Croix counties are also *StormReady*®. The following organizations are *StormReady*® Supports: Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Brewers, WISN-TV12, WTMV-NBC15, Hortonville High School in Outagamie County, Weather Central, Inc./My Weather, LLC in Madison, VCPI in Milwaukee, Camp Freeland Leslie BSA-Oxford, Edgewood High School of the Sacred Heart-Madison, Experimental Aircraft Association-Oshkosh, Five Diamond, Inc-Waukesha and the Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes-Green Bay. Several other Wisconsin cities and/or counties are currently working toward their *StormReady*® designation.

Nationally, as of January 28, 2014, there were 2178 *StormReady*® Sites in 50 states, Puerto Rico & Guam:

1027 Counties, 827 Communities

144 Universities, 15 Indian Nations, 71 Commercial Sites, 63 Military, 31 Government Sites

160 *TsunamiReady*® Sites in 10 states, Puerto Rico and Guam

344 *StormReady*® Supporters

The following link shows a map of these *StormReady*® sites (it does not include StormReady Supporters): <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/communities.htm>

The National Weather Service (NWS) would appreciate extensive news coverage of the City of New Berlin’s *StormReady*® designation. This will increase the public's awareness of the program. If you have any questions about the NWS's *StormReady*® program, please contact Steve Brueske, Meteorologist in Charge, National Weather Service, Milwaukee/Sullivan, WI at stephen.brueske@noaa.gov.

Cc: Aldermen
Media