

**National Weather Service
Goodland, Kansas**

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Goodland, Kansas, recently informed Nex-Tech of Hays, Kansas, that it will be honored with a Mark Trail Award. Ryan McClung, Nex-Tech Mobile Radio Supervisor, will accept the award at a ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on June 21, 2007.

The Mark Trail Award program honors individuals and organizations that use or provide NOAA Weather Radio receivers and transmitters to save lives and protect property. Nex-Tech is being recognized for the work it did to maintain weather and emergency information to Norton, Graham and Phillips counties following the major blizzard that moved through Kansas from December 28 through December 30, 2006.



The storm produced between two and three feet of snow over many locations across the area and coated other areas with a layer of ice one to two inches thick. On December 30, 2006, local emergency response teams discovered that the 400-foot NOAA Weather Radio transmitter (WWF87) tower in Lenora, Kansas, collapsed due to the weight of ice. Further, the building that housed the transmitter was damaged. Rural Telephone of Lenora, Kansas, donates tower and building space for the transmitter. Realizing that citizens in the affected area required weather and

emergency information, Gary Flanigan, senior technician in the Nex-Tech Mobile Radio Department, informed the NWS in Goodland about the collapsed tower. With support from the NWS, Nex-Tech voluntarily developed a plan to erect a temporary tower and building to get NOAA Weather Radio programming on the air.

Despite snowdrifts of over four feet, a team of radio technicians, led by Ryan McClung, erected a temporary tower and a shelter to house the transmitter on January 5, 2007. Though the tower was only 50 feet high, the transmitter signal was strong enough to be heard in the communities of Hill City, Norton, and Lenora. Without this temporary solution, the transmitter would have been off the air for 8-12 weeks.

The dedication of Nex-Tech technicians to provide the citizens of northwest Kansas with critical weather information was exemplary. Citizens were able to hear critical weather warnings and advisories about several subsequent winter storms. Nex-Tech went well beyond what is normally expected to assist the NWS disseminate important information that helped save lives and protect property.

“With this award, we recognize Nex-Tech for its important contribution to protect the lives and property of residents in this region,” said Scott Mentzer, Meteorologist in Charge of the National Weather Service in Goodland, Kansas. “Whenever danger threatens, whatever the hour, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards can provide those extra minutes of warning in situations where minutes can save lives.”

NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) is an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department. The National Weather Service, a major program unit of NOAA, shares in NOAA’s mission of enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of the nation’s coastal and marine resources.

Editor’s Note: Information on NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards and graphics of Mark Trail are available at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr>.

For additional information about the Nex-Tech award, contact Scott Mentzer or David Floyd at 785-899-6412 or visit the NWS website at <http://www.weather.gov/gld>.