



PRESS RELEASE

National Weather Service – Milwaukee/Sullivan, Wisconsin

Contact: Marcia Cronce
marcia.cronce@noaa.gov

For Immediate Release
April 16, 2014

General Mitchell International Airport StormReady® Supporter Certification ceremony To be held on April 21st

At 11:30 am on Monday, April 21, 2014, there will be a brief *StormReady*® Supporter certification ceremony for the General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA). It will be held inside the Milwaukee County Regional Business Park (300 East College Ave) at the Milwaukee County Fire Department Headquarters (6128 S. Griffin Avenue, Building #224). Through their continued efforts in increasing airport safety in the face of severe weather, GMIA earned their *StormReady*® Supporter designation on March 10, 2014. Two *StormReady*® signs and a *StormReady*® Certificate will be presented to airport officials and the Milwaukee County Executive, Chris Abele. The media is encouraged to attend.

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 organization must:

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

Other organizations that have been designated as *StormReady*® Supporters include the 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. Communities in Wisconsin that are *StormReady*® include the cities of New Berlin, Lake Mills, Whitewater, Cedarburg, Waupaca, Belleville, Viroqua, Dousman, Hillsboro, and Bayside. Lincoln, Oneida, Racine and St. Croix counties are also *StormReady*®. Several other Wisconsin cities and/or counties are currently working toward their *StormReady*® designation.

Nationally, as of April 14, 2014, there were **2196** *StormReady*® Sites in **49** states, Puerto Rico & Guam: **1031** Counties, **836** Communities, **148** Universities, **15** Indian Nations, **72** Commercial Sites, **71** Military, **32** Government Sites, and **357** *StormReady*® Supporters.

This link shows a map of these *StormReady*® sites: <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/communities.htm>

The *StormReady*® efforts at General Mitchell International Airport were spearheaded by the Emergency Management Coordinator, Lisa Sherman. The National Weather Service (NWS) would appreciate extensive news coverage of GMIA's *StormReady*® Supporter designation. This will increase the public's awareness of the program. If you have any questions about the NWS's *StormReady*® program, please contact Marcia Cronce, Meteorologist at the National Weather Service, Milwaukee/Sullivan, WI at marcia.cronce@noaa.gov.