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The City of Burleson has earned StormReady recognition from the National Weather Service (NWS). According to NWS, this recognition is due to the City's continued vision, effort and commitment to the citizens of Burleson on the part of the City's emergency management division and the City's senior leadership.

The honor will be presented to the City at the Sept. 21 Burleson City Council meeting at city hall.

"This certification shows that the City of Burleson has taken very proactive measures to ensure storm preparedness," Burleson Battalion Fire Chief Brent Batla said.

StormReady is a program that started in Tulsa, Okla., in 1999. StormReady helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills they need to save lives and property before and during an event. The key is advanced planning, education and awareness. StormReady is intended to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of hazardous weather warnings for the public and to assist the community in being better prepared to save lives. This program does not cost the community anything unless emergency management upgrades are needed to qualify for the recognition.

To be StormReady, a community must set up a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts to alert the public; create a system that monitors weather conditions locally; promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars; and, develop a formal hazardous weather plan which includes training severe weather spotters and hosting emergency exercises.

The StormReady designation is earned by communities that voluntarily go above and beyond the minimum standards of severe weather preparedness and operations. Six areas are evaluated. Those areas include NWS information receipt, local weather and water monitoring, local warning dissemination, communication of information to the NWS in Fort Worth, community preparedness and, administrative tools. The StormReady recognition is valid for three years.

As of Aug. 26, only 10 cities/counties in Texas have earned the distinction. They include Amarillo, Bailey County, Commerce, Lewisville, Muleshoe, Potter County, Randall County, San Antonio and Victoria County. There are 1,498 StormReady sites in 50 states, Puerto Rico and Guam. That includes counties, communities, universities, Indian Nations, commercial sites, military sites and government sites.

For more about the National Weather Service's StormReady program, go to www.stormready.noaa.gov.