

September 18, 2009

Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

Three meteorologists from the Fort Worth office of the National Weather Service will be at the Burleson City Council meeting to present a StormReady recognition certificate to the City's emergency management division.

Warning Coordination Meteorologist Mark Fox and meteorologists Jessica Schultz and Eric Martello are on the agenda to present the honor between 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 21. The 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.

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 Sept. 16, 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 1,517 StormReady sites in 49 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.