

OTTAWA

POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

04/15/10

BRIAN L. ZEILMANN
Chief of Police

I'm pleased to announce that the City of Ottawa has continued to meet and exceed all of the requirements of the StormReady program and has been recertified by the National Weather Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as a StormReady Community.

StormReady is a nationwide program that helps communities better protect their citizens during severe weather.

To be recognized as StormReady, the City of Ottawa had to meet or exceed numerous guidelines for successful participation in the StormReady Program which are based on population.

The City of Ottawa continues to maintain a state of the art 24 hour communications center that has the ability to receive National Weather Service information to provide local reports and advice, to include warning dissemination capabilities. Some of the ways up to date weather information and hydrometeorological monitoring is received by the center is by NOAA weather radio, statewide law enforcement telecommunications, television, local radio, and the Weather-Sentry Public Safety Edition to name a few.

Once National Weather Service warnings are received or local information suggests an imminent weather threat to the community, the city maintains several warning systems to include outdoor warning sirens, cable television broadcasts, and NOAA weather radio receivers with tone alert in public accessed buildings.

Remember the key to disaster management is effective communication and public education. Severe Weather Readiness pamphlets can be obtained at the Ottawa Police Department and City Hall. A preparedness guide for severe weather can be found on the National Weather Service web site at www.nws.noaa.gov.

The certification will expire in April of 2013.

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