

Memorandum



DATE: April 24, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee: Sheffie Kadane (Chair),
Adam Medrano (Vice Chair), Dwaine Caraway, Jennifer S. Gates, Sandy Greyson,
Scott Griggs

SUBJECT: **StormReady**

On Monday, April 27, 2015 you will be briefed on the StormReady National Weather Service Program. The briefing materials are attached for your review.



Eric D. Campbell
Assistant City Manager

Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council



StormReady is a nationwide community preparedness program that uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather, from tornadoes to winter weather.

To be officially recognized as a StormReady community, the City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management has accomplished the following:

- Established a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is maintained in a 24/7 state of readiness and equipment is tested on a weekly basis. Access to the National Weather Service (NWS), Outdoor Warning Sirens, and weather monitoring services are available in the EOC. Police Communications is the designated 24 hour warning point for the City of Dallas.
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public. OEM Staff receives weather information via a chat enabled software with the National Weather Service and via the iNWS notification system. This system notifies OEM via email and voice call as weather conditions change. Public weather information from NWS is posted automatically on the OEM Social Media page via Readywarn.
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally. OEM has access to Level III radar data, NWS Fort Worth/Dallas forecast office, and all local and national media stations. Live reports from the field are received via trained storm spotters and thru the public safety radio system. All of these provide multiple streams of weather information into the EOC.
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars. Weather preparedness information is included in any public speaking engagement that OEM is requested to do. Information from the Knowwhat2do preparedness program and the National Weather Service Learning Center is presented during these seminars. These events are delivered to schools, libraries, and industry year round.
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises. OEM, in partnership with the NWS, provides information on Basic and Advanced SkyWarn Classes. In addition OEM assists the Amateur Radio Council with yearly training and exercise topics. The Emergency Operations Plan outlines procedures for hazardous weather response and planning.
- Complete Biennial visits by OEM staff to the National Weather Service forecast office.

The certification is good for three years and requires biannual visits with the National Weather Service to maintain certification.