



When bad weather hits, Countryside is ready

COUNTRYSIDE, Ill. - The City of Countryside was recently recertified as a StormReady community and is now better prepared and protected for severe weather under this new system. The certification is a result of Countryside being proactive in safety and preparedness for any type of inclement weather.

Police Chief Timothy Swanson and Emergency Services and Disaster Agency Coordinator Steve Norman also were honored for their leadership and measures taken by the City. This step toward certification is important in helping to protect the safety and well-being of residents, businesses, visitors and shoppers in Countryside.

In order to receive this designation, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and an emergency operations center
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions
- Promote the importance of public readiness through public education
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises

The National Weather Service designed StormReady to help communities better plan for and mitigate effects of extreme weather-related events. Receiving StormReady recognition does not mean that a community is storm proof, but StormReady communities will be better prepared when severe weather strikes.

“People in Countryside should feel safer in their homes and businesses with this new system in place,” Swanson said. “Countryside has once again taken a leadership role in safety for the community.”

The City of Countryside is one of 40 communities throughout Illinois and one of five in Cook County to be certified as a StormReady Community. Its recent recertification is effective through May 2011.

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