



What it means to be a StormReady® University

Americans live in the most severe weather-prone country on Earth. Each year, Americans cope with an average of 10,000 thunderstorms, 2,500 floods, 1,000 tornadoes, as well as an average of 6 deadly hurricanes. Potentially deadly weather impacts every American. Due to our geographic location, potentially deadly weather could impact Iowa State University. In order to prepare for severe weather, ISU has worked to meet the criteria required by the National Weather Service StormReady program and on September 23, 2004, became the 9th university in the country and the first in the state of Iowa to receive the StormReady designation.

Approximately 90% of all presidentially declared disasters are weather related, leading to around 500 deaths per year and nearly \$14 billion in damage. StormReady, a program started in 1999 in Tulsa, OK, helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property— before and during the event. StormReady helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local safety programs. StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education, and awareness. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives.

Requirements

There are six guidelines that must be met in order to qualify as a StormReady University.

Guideline 1: Communications & Coordination Center – The University must have a center manned 24-hours/day, 7 days/week to implement emergency procedures in the event of severe weather. In addition, the University must have an Emergency Operations Center and a Hazardous Weather Operations Plan to manage the University in the event a weather disaster does occur. The Department of Public Safety Dispatch Center serves as our 24-hour communication location as well as our Emergency Operations Center.

Guideline 2: National Weather Service Warning Reception – The Communications and Coordination Center must have at least four redundant systems to receive weather warnings. Our dispatch center receives warnings via NOAA Weather Radio, Law Enforcement Teletype (LETS), television, radio and the Metropolitan Incident Command Radio Network (MICRN).

Guideline 3: Hydrometeorological Monitoring – The Communications and Coordination Center must have at least three methods of monitoring local weather information on an ongoing basis. We monitor the weather by using river gauges around Ames and Story County, by internet access to National Weather Service and local TV Radar and weather reports, local media and the Weather Channel.

Guideline 4: Local Warning Dissemination – The University must have at least three redundant systems to notify the University community of severe weather warnings. We are able to notify the University community through the use of the Ames Outdoor Warning Sirens, broadcasts over DPS radios, NOAA Weather Radios located in each building and the associated emergency notification plans.

Guideline 5: Community Preparedness: – The University must have plans in place for building occupants to follow in the event of severe weather. ISU has placed weather radios in university buildings and each building has established an emergency notification plan. The University also offers awareness training to the community on an annual basis. The Department of Environmental Health & Safety has developed numerous brochures and information sources that are available at: <http://www.ehs.iastate.edu/prep/weather/resources>.

Guideline 6: Administration – The University must also meet a number of administrative criteria that include: inviting National Weather Service Staff to visit the campus annually, training DPS patrol officers to be Storm Spotters (a National Weather Service Training Program). The University also had to develop a Hazardous Weather Operations Plan that includes procedures of notifying the NWS of damage caused by storms on our campus.

Application

Since September 2001, the University has increased efforts in planning for various types of emergencies. The University continues these efforts and has become more prepared for all types of disasters.

Work to specifically meet the StormReady requirements began in February 2004 and the University submitted a preliminary application to the National Weather Service on May 3, 2004. Representatives of the Des Moines office of the National Weather Service conducted an on-site evaluation of the University on September 22, 2004. The University was informed that it was approved for StormReady University designation on September 23, 2004. The University must renew the StormReady designation every three years.