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**MORTON COUNTY
and
CITY OF MANDAN**

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Morton County and City of Mandan recognized as Storm Ready by the NWS

Mandan, N.D. – Morton County and the City of Mandan have been recognized by the National Weather Service (NWS) as a Storm Ready County and City, acknowledging the community's commitment to advanced planning, education and awareness in the event of a weather-related disaster.

Being named Storm Ready is about preparing for a community's increased vulnerability to extreme weather and water events. Approximately 98 percent of all Presidentially-declared disasters are weather-related, leading to around 500 deaths per year and nearly \$15 billion in damage nationally.

"The Storm Ready program promotes public awareness of actions and preparations we're taking to be better equipped to lessen the impact of storms," said Morton County Emergency Manager Tom Doering. "Our city and county emergency management utilizes storm sirens, early warning systems and various other communication needed to save lives and property – before, during and after the event."

The grassroots approach helps communities develop plans to handle severe weather events and Storm Ready programs helps emergency managers with clear guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations.

Some key criteria to be named Storm Ready include:

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

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