



Alachua County ***Department of Fire/Rescue Services*** ***Office of Public Information***

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For Immediate Release

April 20, 2006 – Board of County Commissioners Recognizes Alachua County’s National Weather Service ‘StormReady’ Designation

On Tuesday, April 11, 2006, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners officially recognized the county’s prestigious StormReady re-designation by the National Weather Service. The award, which follows an in-depth application review and onsite visit by an NWS advisory board, ensures that critical criteria are being met and exceeded in counties designated as StormReady.

This is the third time Alachua County has received the StormReady designation. In February, 2001, Alachua County was recognized as the **first** StormReady community in Florida.

The StormReady designation was developed by the National Weather Service to recognize Emergency Management programs that have reached a level of excellence in preparing their communities for severe weather and hurricanes. Communities recognized as StormReady have successfully met specific storm preparedness criteria such as:

- Having a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- Having more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public
- Creating a system that continuously monitors local weather conditions
- Promoting the importance of public readiness through community seminars
- Developing a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises

For more information on this important designation, contact David Donnelly at 352.264.6500.

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*Due to federal HIPAA privacy laws that protect patient confidentiality, ACFR cannot legally release the names of patients