



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Air Resources Laboratory Becomes NOAA's First StormReady® Supporter

NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory field research division in Idaho Falls, Idaho, is the first NOAA entity to become a StormReady® Supporter. StormReady® is an education program designed by NOAA's National Weather Service to establish severe weather safety plans and actively promote weather awareness.

"The StormReady® program gave us an opportunity to strengthen our sharing of weather information in-house," said Kirk Clawson, Ph.D., director, NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory field research division. "Utilizing our weather observation network during a recent severe weather outbreak, we assisted the National Weather Service forecasters as tornadoes raced across the Idaho National Laboratory. This is the true spirit behind the StormReady® program, which is designed to open communications during any disaster."

NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory field research division studies processes and develops models that relate to air quality and climate. They also provide direct support to the Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory with meteorological forecasts and emergency response capabilities.

"There are more than 1,200 StormReady® sites across the country, including 52 StormReady® supporters, but this is the first NOAA facility to participate in the program," said Rick Dittmann, meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service office in Pocatello. "It sets an important precedent to have 'one of our own' promote the principles and guidelines of the StormReady® program into their severe weather safety and awareness plans. We hope to continue this type of in-reach across NOAA."

Dittmann will present a recognition plaque and a special StormReady® sign to Steven Fine, Ph.D., director of NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory, and Richard Artz, deputy director of NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory, at a ceremony on Oct. 30.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 70 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

On the Web:

NOAA's ARL Field Research Division: <http://www.noaa.inel.gov/>

NOAA's National Weather Service in Pocatello: <http://www.weather.gov/pocatello>

NOAA's StormReady® program: <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov>

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