



Contact: John Cole
(252) 223-5122 ext. 223

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 6, 2012

National Weather Service Recognizes Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., as StormReady

National Weather Service officials have recognized Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., as a StormReady[®] community. The [StormReady](#) program helps community leaders and residents better prepare for hazardous weather and flooding. StormReady communities have made a strong commitment to implement the infrastructure and systems needed to save lives and protect property when severe weather strikes.

"No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives," said John Cole, Warning Coordination Meteorologist of the National Weather Service forecast office in Newport, N.C. "This designation is especially important in light of significant weather that recently struck eastern North Carolina – a tornado outbreak and Hurricane Irene last year, and a severe thunderstorm event in July of this year that killed three people," said Cole.

Cole will present Jason Baker, Fire Chief, Pine Knoll Shores, with a recognition letter and special StormReady signs during a recognition ceremony at 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 13, 2012, at the Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall which is located at 100 Municipal Circle.

The nationwide community preparedness program uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle local severe weather and flooding threats. The program is voluntary and provides communities with clear-cut advice from the local National Weather Service forecast office and state and local emergency managers. The program began in 1999 with seven communities in the Tulsa area. Today, there are more than 1,900 StormReady communities in the U.S.

To be recognized as StormReady, a community must maintain a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; have more than one way to receive National Weather Service warnings and to alert the public; be able to monitor local weather and flood conditions; conduct community preparedness programs; and ensure hazardous weather and flooding are addressed in formal emergency management plans, which include training [SKYWARN](#)[®] weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

The StormReady program is part of the National Weather Service's working partnership with the [International Association of Emergency Managers](#) and the [National Emergency Management Association](#). The StormReady recognition is valid for three years and can be renewed.

NOAA's [National Weather Service](#) is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. The National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. Working with partners, the National Weather Service is building a [Weather-Ready Nation](#) to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather. Visit us online at [weather.gov](#) and on [Facebook](#).

###

StormReady[®] is a registered trademark used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.