



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: July 3, 2024

Department: Public Works

Title:

**Marion County Storm Ready Designation**

Management Update/Work Session Date: July 2, 2024 Audio/Visual aids

Time Required: 15 minutes Contact: Greg Walsh Phone: 503-365-3133

Requested Action:

Presentation - Acceptance of this designation of becoming a StormReady community by the National Weather Service.

Issue, Description & Background:

Marion County has been officially designated a StormReady Community by the National Weather Service. This recognition is a testament to our ongoing commitment to emergency planning, coordination, partnership development, and community preparedness. In our recent application to the NWS, we outlined the comprehensive efforts taken by Marion County Emergency Management in ensuring the safety and well-being of our community members during severe weather events.

Financial Impacts:

No cost to the County; we could qualify for rate reductions through the National Flood Insurance Program.

Impacts to Department & External Agencies:

Acknowledgment of the dedication and hard work of our entire team, and the proactive approach the County has for Emergency Management.

List of attachments:

Official letter from NWS, Original Application

Presenter:

Greg Walsh, Emergency Management Director, National Weather Service

Department Head Signature:

*Brin Shell*

## Krista Carter

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**From:** NWS Portland - NOAA Service Account <nws.portland@noaa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2024 3:04 PM  
**To:** Krista Carter; Greg Walsh  
**Cc:** Tanja Fransen - NOAA Federal; Treena Jensen - NOAA Federal; Christopher Burling - NOAA Federal; amanda.mathis@oem.oregon.gov; Rebecca Muessle - NOAA Federal  
**Subject:** Marion County StormReady Designation 2024  
**Attachments:** 2024 Marion County SR Recognition Letter.pdf; 2024 Marion County SR.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Waiting For a reply

**⚠ WARNING:** This email originated outside of Marion County.  
**DO NOT CLICK** links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. Carter and Mr. Walsh,

Congratulations on your StormReady designation! The StormReady Team at NWS Portland, OR has determined that all requirements for the StormReady program are being met by Marion County. The county is doing an outstanding job of promoting severe weather preparation, awareness, and resilience within the community.

Attached is a letter which serves as official documentation that Marion County has been recognized as StormReady through March of 2028, as well as a copy of your StormReady application.

Sincerely,  
NWS Portland StormReady Team



**Portland, Oregon National Weather Service  
Weather Forecast Office**

web: [weather.gov/portland](https://weather.gov/portland)

twitter: @NWSPortland

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**National Weather Service - Portland, OR**

5241 NE 122nd Ave  
Portland, OR 97230  
[www.weather.gov/portland](http://www.weather.gov/portland)



March 6, 2024

**Marion County Emergency Management**

5155 Silverton Road NE  
Salem, OR 97305

Dear Ms. Carter and Mr. Walsh,

We are pleased to inform you that Marion County was designated StormReady by the National Weather Service (NWS) in Portland, OR on March 4, 2024. This StormReady recognition is valid for four years and can be renewed in 2028.

StormReady helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property--before, during and after a hazardous weather event. StormReady helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local safety programs.

Marion County has demonstrated a high level of effectiveness in communicating hazardous weather warnings and preparing the public for weather impacts. We value our ongoing relationship with Marion County and look forward to many more productive years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Burling".

Chris Burling  
Lead Meteorologist  
NWS Portland, OR





Application Date: 12/18/2023

**Section 1) General Information**

Enter the Name of Your Organization*		Marion County, Oregon	
Primary Contact:	Krista Carter	Secondary Contact:	Greg Walsh
Primary Contact Title:	Program Coordinator 2	Secondary Contact Title:	Director of Emergency Management
Office Phone:	503-588-5108	Office Phone:	503-365-3133
Cell Phone:	503-932-3947	Cell Phone:	503-991-6926

\*Organization type: County, Parrish, Tribe, Village, City, University, etc.

EOC** (or similar facility) Phone:	503-588-5108	911 Center/24 Hour Warning Point Phone:	503-982-2340
EOC (or similar facility) Address:	5155 Silverton Road NE Salem, OR 97305	911 Center/24 Hour Warning Point Address:	1060 Mt. Hood Avenue Woodburn, OR 97071

\*\*EOC – Emergency Operations Center

**Section 2) Emergency Operations Planning**

**2.1 – List the sources of hazardous weather information the EOC, and/or other facility (such as dispatch center, warning point, security center, etc.), are able to receive.**

Your answer, or N/A Dispatch Center, Public Works Dispatch, National Weather Service emails and text, NOAA Radio, City, County, and State websites - RAPTOR

Requirement – At least two ways (recommended three or more ways for populations >15,000) to receive official hazardous weather information. Possible sources include: iNWS, NOAA Weather Radio, text alerts, mobile apps, email alerts, etc. Note: not all communities have a dispatch center or warning point since they share services or do not have 24 hour operations.

**2.2 – List the ways the EOC, and/or other facility (such as a dispatch center, warning point, security center, etc.), is able to relay official watch/warning information to the public, and/or the organization’s staff?**

Your answer, or N/A Facebook, County website (red banner) Marion/Polk Alerts, Press Releases, Email Listserv.

Requirement – At least two ways (recommended three or more ways for populations >15,000) to relay official watch/warning information (possible sources include: reverse 911, social media, website, email distribution list, mass notification systems, local cable TV override, etc.). Note: not all communities have a dispatch center or warning point since they share services, or do not have 24 hour operations.

**2.3 – Do you have an updated Emergency Operations Plan (or similar plan or weather annex) in accordance with state/FEMA or your organization’s time requirements?**  Yes  No

What was the date the plans were last updated? March 2020

What are the main hazards covered in your plan? Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Severe Weather, Wildfire, Hazardous Materials, Terrorism, Public Health, Animals and Agriculture

Requirement – A complete review is conducted in accordance with state and/or FEMA requirements. If there are no formal requirements then updates are recommended every two years. Additionally, the most impactful and most common weather-related hazards should be addressed in the plan.

**2.4 – Does your plan have instructions for EOC, or similar facility, to activate and request weather support for events such as HAZMATs, SARs, large public venues, etc.)?**  Yes  No

Additionally, do these plans include guidance for the receipt & redistribution of critical weather information, as well as reporting observed weather conditions back to the NWS, or non-NWS meteorological service?  Yes  No

Requirement – Plan must include instructions for activating your EOC (or similar facility) and local warning relays, and contain procedures for reporting severe weather or other emergencies which require weather support.

**2.5 – Do you have plans which account for hazardous weather (e.g. Lightning Safety Toolkits) and have a reliable source of weather information for any large public events by using weather support services?**

Yes, with NWS office     Yes, with a non-NWS service     No

Requirement – Planning and establishing a reliable source of weather information is needed for large public events.

NOTE: StormReady Community guidelines may be satisfied by incorporating products, data, and services from non-NWS providers (e.g., other government entity, media, academia, and/or our partners in America’s Weather/Water/Climate Industry (all elements of the private sector (including media, consultants, equipment providers, etc.)).

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average two hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to: wrn.feedback@noaa.gov





### Section 3 – Coordination and Partnership Development

<b>3.1 – List any NWS partner meetings or workshops, or similar collaborative events with non-NWS service providers, your organization has attended over the last two years.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
December 15, 2023-weather briefing with OR Dept of Emergency Mgmt., August 8, 2023 NWS Chat 2.0, July 12, 2023-PGE meeting on outages and restoration.	

Requirement – Government EM or Public Safety Official participation in at least one partner meeting or workshop every two years after recognition. This is not a requirement for non-government EM or non-government Safety Official applicants.

<b>3.2 – List at least one actual event, or participation in a drill or exercise, that included a weather emphasis or component with your operations.</b>	December 13, 2023-Winter Storm and Resource Requests
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Requirement – One event, or drill/exercise, involving your operations every two years.

<b>3.3 – Is your team registered for, and familiar with, NWSChat 2.0, or similar weather coordination application or program from a non-NWS service?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, then list the weather coordination application(s) used.	

Requirement – Your team is signed up and familiar with [NWSChat 2.0](#), or at least one other non-NWS service weather coordination application. This is not a requirement for non-government organizations.

<b>3.4 – Do you receive weather information from your local NWS office or non-NWS service through blast/notification email distribution lists?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, from a NWS office <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, from a non-NWS service <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Requirement – At least two representatives from the organization are included on a blast or distribution email list.

<b>3.5 – Do you utilize a distribution list consisting of community or organizational staff, leadership, &amp; partners (i.e. school admin., law enforcement, fire depts., critical facilities, etc.) to forward NWS or non-NWS services briefings for hazardous weather events?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Requirement – Utilization of a distribution list to share NWS or non-NWS services briefings for hazardous weather events.

<b>3.6 – Have you participated in an office visit or familiarization meeting with your local NWS staff to learn more about products/services available from the NWS &amp; what may be available from non-NWS service providers?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, with NWS office <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with a non-NWS service <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Requirement – A familiarization meeting with the local NWS (could be virtual) is conducted with to learn about services & support capabilities. Organizations may alternatively use similar services from non-NWS meteorological providers. After the initial recognition this guideline is only required when there is a new EM, Public Safety Official, or Safety Coordinator. This is not required for non-government organizations but is recommended.

### Section 4 – Community Preparedness

<b>4.1 List your organization’s Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador Internal point(s) of contact.</b>	Greg Walsh, Director of EM
List any similar non-NWS preparedness/outreach program(s) you are involved with?	We use RAPTOR through the state and One-Rain through City of Salem.

Requirement – Participation in the Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador Program is required. Participation in at least one similar non-NWS preparedness/outreach program is optional.

<b>4.2 – List any community events or other outreach efforts used to distribute and promote weather safety information through your organization.</b>
Social media posts, safety meetings, email listserv for weather updates, are used regularly throughout the year.

Requirement – At least two community and/or outreach efforts every two years (recommended three or more community events for populations >15,000 every two years). Community events may include public presentations, educational activities with schools, participation in safety fairs or booths, virtual engagements, etcetera. Other outreach efforts may include relevant social media posts, organizational websites, brochure distribution, etc.

<b>4.3 – List the dates of any storm spotter or weather safety training your organization helped to share information about, and/or helped to facilitate/organize an event in your community.</b>	We had an in-person weather spotter class before 2020. Now it's offered virtually and we advertise the
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NOTE: StormReady Community guidelines may be satisfied by incorporating products, data, and services from non-NWS providers (e.g., other government entity, media, academia, and/or our partners in America's Weather/Water/Climate Industry (all elements of the private sector (including media, consultants, equipment providers, etc.)).

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Requirement – Help share information about a virtual storm spotter or weather safety training event, and/or help to facilitate/organize at least one storm spotter or weather safety training event every 2 years.

**Applying Official Comments**

We would offer in-person weather spotter training, but I was told it's all conducted on-line now. Our department meets monthly for safety meetings and there is always a weather topic on the agenda, depending on the time of year for the subject. We have a large listserv that we update regularly and members can get into weather weather updates.

**NWS Reviewing Official Notes**

[Empty box for NWS Reviewing Official Notes]

Application Approved:  Yes  No

NWS Reviewing Official Name	Christopher Burling	Date of Final NWS Review	2/23/2024	Date of Recognition	2/23/2024
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x Krista Carter  
StormReady Applicant Signature

1. StormReady Applicant – Please print and sign the document, or click on the signature section and insert your digital signature, or upload an image of your signature.

x Chris Burling  
NWS Reviewing Official Signature

2. NWS Reviewing Official – Click on the signature section and use your Common Access Card to include your digital signature, or include an image of your signature. Please allow a few moments for the signature window to open.

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