

County of Bamberg

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Clerk to Council

Press Release

To: News Media

CC: Bamberg County Administration

From: Bamberg County Public Information Office

Date: June 2017

Re: Bamberg County recognized as Storm Ready County by NWS Columbia

Bamberg, South Carolina (June 2017) – In June 2017, the National Weather Service (NWS) in Columbia, SC recognized Bamberg County as a StormReady® County. Bamberg joins 42 other South Carolina counties in earning this recognition. “This is an important milestone for weather preparedness in Bamberg County,” said Brittany Barnwell, Bamberg County Director of Emergency Services. “Being a StormReady® County means we are equipped to minimize loss of life and property in the event of a weather emergency.”

In order to be officially designated as a StormReady® County, Bamberg County had to demonstrate competencies in several areas to the NWS. The County established a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center, enacted multiple ways of receiving severe weather warnings and alerting the public, created a system to monitor local weather conditions, promoted the importance of public readiness through seminars and learning opportunities, and developed a formal plan for dealing with hazardous weather.

StormReady® Counties have plans to handle all types of severe weather; in Bamberg County the most common severe weather events are severe thunderstorms, hurricanes and tornadoes. In becoming officially StormReady®, Bamberg County demonstrates a proactive approach to managing operations during hazardous weather situations. Bamberg County hosted the NWS Columbia on Friday, June 23 for a Weather Spotter training, in which the public was trained to become certified volunteer Weather Spotters for the NWS.

“We are proud to be a StormReady® County,” stated Barnwell, “but, each citizen in Bamberg County plays a role in being prepared in the event of a weather emergency. Every resident should have a plan and adequate supplies in the case of severe weather. Residents should feel confident that Bamberg County has the processes and procedures in place to handle a weather emergency; it is a team effort to keep everyone safe in extreme weather events.”

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Bamberg County's current StormReady® designation is valid until 2021. If you or your community group is interested in learning more about the County's efforts for emergency preparedness or would like additional information, please email info@bambergcounty.sc.gov.

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