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NEWS RELEASE

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WELD COUNTY RECOGNIZED AS A STORMREADY COUNTY

WELD COUNTY, CO – The Weld County Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce that Weld County is once again considered a StormReady county by The National Weather Service and the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. As a StormReady county, Weld County is exceptionally prepared for flooding, severe weather, fires and winter weather emergency events.

“Having been through several disasters, the commissioners understand the seriousness of all emergency disasters,” said Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer. “Weld County is committed to safety and emergency preparedness.”

To receive a StormReady designation, Weld County had to achieve the following standards:

- Establishment of a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- Creation of more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warning, as well as multiple ways to alert the public;
- Creation of a system that monitors local weather conditions;
- Promotion of the importance of public readiness through community seminars;
- Development of a formal hazardous weather plan, which included training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises

Not only did Weld County have to meet the standards to become a StormReady county but also had to complete an application. Also as part of the application process, members from The National Weather Service and Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management met with Weld County Emergency Management staff, reviewed the county’s Emergency Operations Plan, toured the county’s Emergency Operations Center and met with the Director of Public Safety Communications, Mike Wallace, to review dispatch operations and capability.

“The Weld County Office of Emergency Management provides preparedness resources on the county’s websites and information on how to sign up for emergency alerts, including the county’s CodeRED system,” said Commissioner Sean Conway. “As we continue into the winter months, the Board encourages all Weld County residents to sign up and take advantage of the emergency alert system.”

By meeting the StormReady criteria, Weld County is better prepared to save lives and property before, during and after an emergency event through advanced planning, education and awareness. Weld County will remain a StormReady county until November 2018.

For more information about emergency management in Weld County, visit the OEM web page at www.weldoem.com, and to sign up for CodeRED emergency alerts, visit www.weld911alert.com.

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