



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Johnson County Renews “StormReady” Designation from National Weather Service**

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The National Weather Service in Pleasant Hill has awarded Johnson County with the distinction of being “Storm Ready” for 2009-2012. This distinction honors the pro-active approach to improving local hazardous weather operations and public awareness in order to save lives and property, before and during a severe weather event.

“We are proud to have earned this unique designation,” said Nick Crossley, Director of Johnson County Emergency Management & Homeland Security, “This is further testament to the hard work of the county to increase ensure the county is prepared for all hazards to warn and protect the citizens of Johnson County.”

The requirements for achieving this distinction are:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings
- Have more than one way to alert and warn the public
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises

Johnson County is the twenty-seventh jurisdiction designated as StormReady by the Pleasant Hill office and the twenty-seventh in the State of Kansas. There are currently 1,494 StormReady designations nationwide. For more information about the StormReady program, please visit [www.stormready.noaa.gov](http://www.stormready.noaa.gov).

This recognition represents Johnson County’s continued efforts to prepare Johnson County for future emergencies or disasters. Additional efforts will be highlighted in September in conjunction with National Preparedness Month. For more information, please visit [www.jocoem.org](http://www.jocoem.org).

For more information about emergency management or community preparedness, please visit [www.jocoem.org](http://www.jocoem.org).

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**JC EMHS Mission:** To assure the coordination of the activities of County government, State and Federal entities, citizens, businesses, adjacent jurisdictions, and other disaster partners, to prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate major emergencies and disasters within Johnson County.