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HUNTSVILLE WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE RE-DESIGNATES NORTH ALABAMA COUNTIES AS STORMREADY®

Submitted by **NWSN Staff** on Tue, 02/28/2012 - 11:51



Huntsville WFO Warning Coordination Meteorologist David Nadler (far left) and Meteorologist-in-Charge Chris Darden (far right), and AEMA Director Art Faulkner (second from right), pose with emergency managers for northern Alabama counties.

ethic is critical as the National Weather Service transitions toward a more [Weather Ready Nation](#).

Alabama Emergency Management Agency Director **Art Faulkner** noted, "It has been seen firsthand that StormReady helps enhance communication and safety skills needed to save lives before and during severe weather."

The Huntsville Weather Forecast Office re-designated the following counties as StormReady: Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Lawrence, Morgan, Limestone, Madison, Jackson, DeKalb, Marshall and Cullman counties.

In a special ceremony held February 22, the National Weather Service Huntsville, Ala., Weather Forecast Office re-designated 11 north Alabama counties as StormReady® communities. When originally designated as StormReady® on April 4, 2003, it was the first time a forecast office's entire county warning area was recognized at the same time.

The original recognition date also marked the 29th anniversary of the April 3-4, 1974 Tornado Outbreak, which spawned 148 tornadoes and killed 330 people, making it the deadliest tornado outbreak up to that time.

NWS Huntsville Meteorologist-in-Charge, **Chris Darden** said, "the goal of the StormReady project is to help counties and communities to be optimally prepared when, not if, the next severe weather event impacts their area."

Over the past decade, north Alabama has experienced many extreme weather events which have served to emphasize the significance of the weather safety and preparedness program, while helping to build a strong working relationship between NWS Huntsville, Ala., Weather Forecast Office and the emergency management community.

The county emergency managers on hand for the re-designation exemplify the kind of leadership needed to mitigate loss of life during natural disasters. Their attitude and work