



Salt Lake City
International Airport

News Release

Salt Lake City International Airport Recognized as StormReady

National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office Salt Lake City, Utah officials have recognized Salt Lake City International Airport as a StormReady site. The StormReady program helps community leaders and residents better prepare for hazardous weather and flooding. StormReady sites have made a strong commitment to implement the infrastructure and systems needed to save lives and protect property when severe weather strikes.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Weather-Ready Nation program is about building community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather and water events. Some 90% of all presidentially declared disasters are weather related, leading to around 500 deaths per year and nearly \$14 billion in damage. "As we've seen in the past year, it's not a question of if we'll be dealing with hazardous weather, but rather, when," said Kevin Barjenbruch, warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service weather forecast office in Salt Lake City. "The end goal is a Weather-Ready Nation, where society is prepared for and responds appropriately to weather-dependent events. A key component of this is ensuring that community leaders make informed decisions, and that is where the StormReady program comes into play." Storm Ready communities and organizations are "better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning, education, and awareness."

The nationwide community preparedness program, founded in 1999, is a grassroots approach to preparing for natural hazards. Today, more than 2,100 U.S. communities have achieved StormReady recognition.

To be recognized as StormReady, a site must maintain a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; have more than one way to receive National Weather Service warnings and to alert the public; be able to monitor local weather and flood conditions; conduct community preparedness programs; and ensure hazardous weather and flooding are addressed in formal emergency management plans, which include training SKYWARN® weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

The StormReady program is part of the National Weather Service's working partnership with the International Association of Emergency Managers and the National Emergency Management Association.

Salt Lake City International Airport is one of 67 commercial sites, and the tenth airport to receive the StormReady designation. The StormReady recognition is valid for three years and can be renewed.

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