



Town of Little Elm
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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July 10, 2015

National Weather Service declares Town StormReady

LITTLE ELM (July 10, 2015) The Dallas/Fort Worth office of the National Weather Service has designated the Town as officially StormReady, recognizing the work accomplished in maintaining an active and comprehensive storm readiness posture, says Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator Travis Calendine.

“In order to attain that level of readiness, several important criteria must be met,” he said. “Foremost among these is the establishment of a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center. Little Elm has one of the area’s best equipped centers, manned by highly-trained personnel.”

At a recent Town Council meeting, Mark Fox, warning and coordination meteorologist at the DFW NWS office, presented Little Elm with the designating documents along with a road sign that officially declares Little Elm as a StormReady community.

In addition to the emergency operations center, a community must have multiple methods of receiving severe weather warnings and forecasts, as well as more than one way to alert the public of these impending weather events.

Other criteria for eligibility includes: the creation of a system that monitors weather conditions locally; promoting the importance of public readiness through community seminars; developing a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters; and holding emergency exercises.

“In the greater DFW area there are approximately 39 cities that have completed the criteria for recognition as StormReady,” he said. “Once attained, the NWS rechecks every three years to ensure that cities and towns are keeping up their preparedness. The designation then can be renewed.”

In Little Elm, as in most communities, the Office of Emergency Management is co-located within the Fire Department. Calendine and several emergency management interns cooperated with other departments to meet the strict standards necessary for the StormReady designation.

“Our principal job, of course, is to look for ways to keep residents safe,” said Calendine. “We use our social media presence, both Facebook and Twitter, as well as our Little Elm Alert system to share safety messages and storm warnings.”

To receive warning messages through Little Elm Alert, residents and business owners may sign up on the Little Elm homepage www.littleelm.org. For Facebook, residents and businesses may log on to Facebook and search for “Town of Little Elm Office of Emergency Management.” On Twitter, search for “Ready Little Elm” or @LittleElmOEM.

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Photo file and cutline attached

ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state’s fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm’s population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town’s footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.

PHOTO AND CUTLINE



LITTLE ELM DECLARED STORMREADY – Mark Fox of the Dallas/Fort Worth office of the National Weather Service (left) and Travis Calendine, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator for Little Elm hold the sign that will alert residents and visitors entering the Town that it is a StormReady community. The designation highlights the level of preparedness the Town has attained in monitoring weather and alerting residents and businesses of these events. The designation is good for three years. The presentation was made at a recent Town Council meeting.