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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 15, 2009

### **NOAA National Weather Service Declares Cumberland County StormReady**

In the Sandhills of central North Carolina, Cumberland County faces all types of hazardous weather, from tornadoes and heavy rain to ice and snow. Cumberland County emergency managers have earned NOAA's National Weather Service StormReady® designation, making them better prepared for severe weather in any season.

Darin Figurskey, meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service Office in Raleigh, will present a letter of recognition and StormReady signs to county officials during the Cumberland County Board of Commissioner's meeting on September 21, 2009, at 6:45 p.m. The meeting will take place at 117 Dick St., Room 118, Fayetteville, N.C.

"Violent tornadoes striking North Carolina have been most common across the southern and eastern Piedmont through the Sandhills, with the majority of deadly tornadoes occurring at night. These storms require quick decision-making to help save lives and property," Figurskey said. "Through diligence in carrying out the requirements to earn the StormReady designation, emergency service leadership in Cumberland County has enabled the area to react more quickly during severe weather."

"Becoming StormReady will help first responders and residents of Cumberland County be better prepared for the next weather disaster," said Tim Mitchell, interim deputy director of emergency services in Cumberland County.

To achieve this distinction Cumberland County met rigorous criteria, which include developing severe weather safety plans and communications infrastructure, actively promoting severe weather safety through public awareness activities and conducting safety training.

The StormReady preparedness program helps communities develop severe weather and flooding response plans with NOAA's National Weather Service and local emergency managers. Since the StormReady program began in 1999, more than 1,500 U.S. communities have become StormReady.

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

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

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On the Web:

NOAA's National Weather Service in Raleigh: [www.weather.gov/rah](http://www.weather.gov/rah)

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards: <http://www.weather.gov/nwr>

NOAA's StormReady program: <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov>

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