

New Winter Weather Warning and Advisory Products

by Jeff Johnson, Warning Coordination Meteorologist

The National Weather Service in Des Moines will change to a simplified winter weather warning and advisory product suite this winter. The purpose of the change is to simplify and clarify the communication and dissemination of winter weather hazards by combining a number of advisory and warning products into categories associated with similar impacts. For example, conditions last winter that prompted the issuance of separate winter weather, snow and blowing snow advisories will be issued as winter weather advisories this winter. Certain hazards will retain their own product names due to the uniqueness of their impacts. There will be no change to the winter weather **watch** products. Refer to the two tables on Page 10 for a list of the old and new winter weather advisory and warning products.

Dallas Center is StormReady® by Melinda Albrecht, General Forecaster



Mayor Mitch Hambleton (left); Chief Deputy of the Dallas Center Fire Department, Daniel Case (center); and Mindy Albrecht, General Forecaster at the National Weather Service in Des Moines, IA.

Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Johnson and StormReady® Program Assistant Melinda Albrecht from the National Weather Service in Des Moines presented Dallas Center Mayor Mitch Hambleton, Dallas Center city council members and Daniel Case, Chief Deputy of the Dallas Center Fire Department, with a recognition plaque and special StormReady® signs at the StormReady® Dedication Ceremony to recognize the city of Dallas Center as StormReady®. Dallas Center is the third StormReady® community in the WFO Des Moines County Warning Area. Dallas Center is also one of 13 Storm Ready communities across the state of Iowa, and one of more than 1300 in the US.

"StormReady® encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations and public awareness," said Jeff Johnson, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Des Moines. "StormReady® arms communities, and in this case Dallas Center, with improved communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property - before and during the event."

The StormReady® program is voluntary and provides communities with clear-cut advice from a partnership between local National Weather Service forecast offices and state and local emergency managers. To be recognized as StormReady®, a community or college must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert 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.

Once again we would like to say "Congratulations" to Dallas Center on being StormReady®!

Fun Fact: The last measurable snow on Christmas Day in Des Moines was 1.0" in 1996...while in Waterloo it was 0.9" in 2004.

Normal High/Low Temperatures

Location	Nov 1	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1
Des Moines	55 / 35	39 / 22	29 / 12	31 / 14
Mason City	51 / 31	33 / 17	23 / 6	24 / 7
Waterloo	53 / 32	37 / 18	26 / 7	28 / 8
Ottumwa	56 / 37	40 / 24	30 / 15	32 / 16

2007-2008 Seasonal Snowfall Statistics (July 1- June 30)

Location	Season Total	Departure	Previous Season Total
Des Moines	58.5"	+22.1"	39.3"
Mason City	34.4"	-5.0"	53.1"
Waterloo	53.9"	+19.0"	29.2"
Ottumwa	N/A	N/A	18.6"