



## Franklin County Emergency Management Agency

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## Media Release

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### **Franklin County Observes Severe Weather Preparedness Week National Weather Service Recognizes Franklin County As “StormReady”**

(Franklin County, Illinois) The Franklin County Emergency Management Agency has joined forces with fellow emergency managers throughout the region to observe Severe Weather Preparedness Week. Severe Weather Preparedness Week will be observed statewide from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008. There are a number of severe weather hazards that effect Illinois each year including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, lightning, and flooding. Severe weather hazards have the potential to cause extensive property damage, injuries, and death. Emergency Management Director Ryan M. Buckingham said “Franklin County was greatly affected by one of the deadliest severe weather events on record, the tri-state tornado of 1925”. “It is our mission to better prepare Franklin County for disaster, but preparedness always begins at home”. The Director encourages residents to take time to review severe weather plans in their homes and workplaces.

Several events are scheduled for the week in which citizens are invited to attend. On Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am a statewide tornado drill will be conducted. Local emergency warning systems will be activated and businesses, schools, and residents are encouraged to practice their severe weather plans at that time.

The National Weather Service will have a StormReady ceremony for Franklin County at the Franklin County Courthouse Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30am. The ceremony will officially recognize Franklin County as a “StormReady County”. Franklin County is one of twelve Illinois counties that have received the StormReady designation. Following the ceremony, the National Weather Service and Franklin County Emergency Management Agency will host a Skywarn Storm Spotter training at the Rend Lake College. The training will begin at 6:00pm and will be held in the learning center (library). For more information on severe weather preparedness visit [www.franklincountyema.com](http://www.franklincountyema.com).

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