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Indianapolis Airport Authority

Airport designated a StormReady[®] facility by National Weather Service

INDIANAPOLIS—The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has designated March 15–21 as “Severe Weather Preparedness Week.”

Although severe weather can—and does—happen throughout the year, passengers and personnel at Indianapolis International Airport (IND) can take comfort in knowing the airport is well-prepared for managing operations in the event of strong storms, hail, high winds, and tornados.

The airport’s operations team recently completed a rigorous process to earn the distinction of being named StormReady[®] by NOAA’s National Weather Service (NWS) in Indianapolis.

Other than Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW), Indianapolis International is the only other U.S. airport with the designation.

To earn this honor, the airport was required to establish:

- A 24-hour warning point and emergency operations
- An internal system for monitoring local weather conditions
- Redundant means of receiving weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public
- A formal hazardous weather plan for training severe weather spotters
- Emergency exercises and seminars to promote weather readiness

In addition to anemometers (wind gauges), digital radar systems, NOAA weather radios, and other technologies, the airport’s Automated Surface Observation System (ASOS) monitors surface wind direction and velocity, sky condition, temperature and dew point, type and intensity of rain, snow, and freezing rain, sea level pressure, obstructions to visibility, and precipitation accumulation.

Two severe weather outdoor warning sirens are stationed on the airport complex, one to the north and the other to the south.

From the airport’s state-of-the-art Airport Operations Center/Emergency Operations Center, dispatch personnel utilize a “Ready Alert” paging system that continuously informs and updates airport personnel regarding severe weather situations.

— More —

Annual safety seminars and training sessions are also held to test the airport's emergency operations plan and to share the latest news and advancements about severe weather management.

"The StormReady® program encourages a proactive approach to improving and managing hazardous weather operations and public awareness," said Dan McCarthy, meteorologist in charge at NOAA's Indianapolis NWS forecast office. "The program provides improved communication and safety skills to save lives and property, before and during a severe weather event. Airport officials have done an outstanding job in developing the necessary infrastructure to meet the StormReady® criteria."

McCarthy and StormReady® program leader Dave Tucek presented airport officials with a special plaque earlier today.

"The Indianapolis Airport Authority takes severe weather very seriously," noted Robert Duncan, airport director. "In applying for this designation, we added more depth to our severe weather plan and improved our preparedness for emergency operations. Partnering with the National Weather Service and other agencies, enables us to in a higher level of real-time storm spotting and response."

For more information about NOAA's StormReady® program, go to www.stormready.noaa.gov.

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