

***StormReady* Rhode Island Initiative**



Building community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather & water events

Presented by
Pete Gaynor & Stephen Conard



Agenda

- Purpose
- What is the *StormReady* program?
- Goals & Benefits
- How the SRRI Initiative Works
- How the SRRI Community Liaison assists Local EMDs
- How the Process Actually Works
- Insights, Best Practices, Challenges & Recommendations
- What's Next?
- Questions?



Purpose

- To share information, insights, best practices, challenges and recommendations about our community preparedness effort, entitled ***StormReady Rhode Island*** with weather professionals in order to better achieve statewide resilience.



What is the *StormReady* Program?

- *StormReady* is a nationwide program that helps communities better protect their citizens during severe weather from tornadoes to tsunamis.
- The program encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations.
- *StormReady* provides emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations.



What is the *StormReady* Rhode Island Initiative?

- *StormReady* Rhode Island (SRRI) initiative is a forward-leaning community preparedness project that encourages all Rhode Island communities to proactively protect their citizens during severe weather.



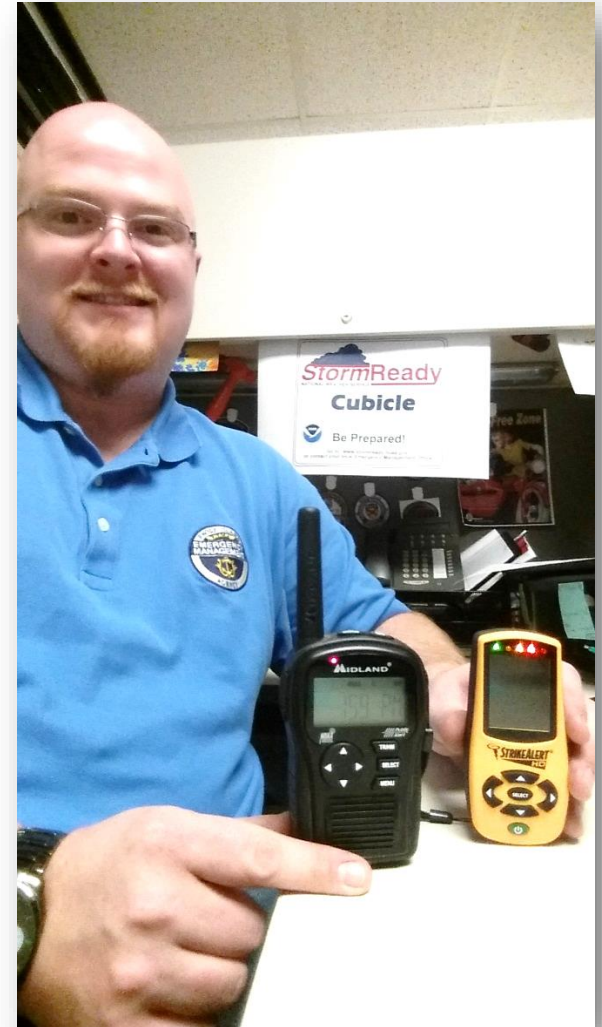
Goals

- Goal 1 of the *StormReady Rhode Island* initiative is to **improve community preparedness** in order to save lives and property--before, during and after a disaster.
- Goal 2 of the *StormReady Rhode Island* initiative is to become the **first state** in the nation to have 100% participation from all cities and towns in Rhode Island.



Tangible Benefits

- Receive an extra \$2,500 no-match **EMPG Award**
- Receive up to four (4) **NOAA Weather Radios** per community
- Receive up to four(4) **Hand-held Lightning detectors**
- **CRS Program** - 25 points for *StormReady*



How the SRRI Initiative Works

- RIEMA dedicated an employee to be the SRRI Community Liaison – **Stephen Conard**.
- RIEMA **incentivized the initiative** by offering a \$2500, no match Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG) award for successfully achieving the *StormReady* designation.
- Worked in **close collaboration** with the National Weather Service (NWS) Taunton Office, RIEMA and NWS streamlined the application and approval process.



How the SRRI Community Liaison assists Local EMDs

- Assists each community through the entire **application and approval process.**
- Provides a partially completed ***StormReady* Application** for each community.
- Provides **NOAA Weather Radios & Hand-held Lightning Detectors** per community, if required.
- Provides a **Hazardous Weather Operations Plan** template for each community.



How the Process Actually Works

1. Develop Packet for community visits
2. Meet with the EMD
3. Meet with Glenn
4. Conduct Final Review & Approval Meeting
5. Process Grant Assurance packet



Town of Jamestown

Insights

- Resources
- Time Management



Town of North Smithfield

Best Practices

- Changed formats when new advisories released



City of Cranston

Best Practices

- Re-utilized SOP and Annexes



City of Woonsocket



Best Practices

- Pre – Weather Service meetings are CRUCIAL



Town of Warren



RI StormReady Communities

- Burrillville
- Central Falls*
- Cranston
- Hopkinton
- Jamestown
- Middletown
- North Smithfield
- Pawtucket*
- Portsmouth
- Providence



Town of West Warwick

17 of 39

*Pawtucket and Central Falls have a combined Emergency Management under the title PCF



RI StormReady Communities

- Scituate
- Smithfield
- Tiverton
- Warren
- West Warwick
- Westerly
- Woonsocket



Town of Hopkinton



Challenges

- Time management
- Those pesky storms



City of Pawtucket



City of Central Falls



Challenges

- Financial issues



Town of Middletown



Town of Burrillville



Recommendations

- Commit a staffer to program
- Support their progress
- Be upfront and concise with stakeholders



Town of Tiverton

What's Next?

- Upon completion of the 39 cities and towns becoming *StormReady*, Rhode Island will apply to be a ***StormReady State***!



Questions & Contact Information

- Director Pete Gaynor, CEM[®], Director
 - Phone: 401.626.6256
 - E-Mail: peter.gaynor@ema.ri.gov
- Stephen Conard, CEM[®], SRRI Community Liaison
 - Phone: 401.462.7102
 - E-Mail: stephen.conard@ema.ri.gov

 Twitter: @RhodeIslandEMA

 Facebook: facebook.com/rhodeislandema

 Web: riema.ri.gov

