



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
**FORECAST OFFICE**  
46 Commerce Way  
Norton, MA 02766-3313

Jason Cavallaro, Emergency Management Director  
32 Center Street  
Hanover, MA 02339

Dear Jay,

September 20, 2022

Congratulations! This letter serves as official notification that the town of Hanover has been recognized as a *StormReady* community...and joins an elite group of well-prepared communities that have achieved this. This designation indicates that Hanover has done everything possible to improve emergency responder and citizen preparedness in the event of a natural disaster. You have done a fine job and have every reason to be proud.

*StormReady* is a National Weather Service program that addresses the need for a higher level of community awareness in order to minimize the loss of life and property from extreme weather. Southern New England is no stranger to weather disasters. A tornado struck Revere, MA in July of 2014. A deadly tornado struck Springfield/Monson, MA in 2011 – it was the worst since the Worcester Tornado of 1953. Hurricanes Carol and Edna both pounded the area in 1954. Tropical Storm Diane in 1955 caused major flash flooding. And let's not forget the Blizzard of 1978 and the "Perfect Storm" on Halloween, 1991...or the 100+ inches of snow in 2015! No community can ever be 'storm proof' but Hanover is now 'StormReady.'

*StormReady* encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations and public awareness. *StormReady* arms communities with improved communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property – before and during an event. After the application process, the *StormReady* Advisory Board, consisting of the NWS and other local, state, and federal officials, recommends recognition. A *StormReady* designation is good for four years, after which the town must apply for renewal.

In order to become *StormReady*, Hanover met or exceeded established criteria in six (6) areas: 1) Communications, 2) NWS Information Reception, 3) Weather & Water Monitoring Systems, 4) Local Warning Dissemination, including NOAA Weather Radios in local city or government-owned buildings with public access, 5) Community Preparedness - Safety/Spotter Talks and public education, and 6) Administrative Tools/Record Keeping.

More specifically... Hanover has a 24-hour Warning Point located at the Police Dept. on Rockland Street and an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located at the Fire Department on Center Street. Effective and rapid communications are the key to successful warning reception and distribution. Hanover has multiple ways to receive warning information. Some direct ways of receiving warnings include receiving text alerts on EMA cell phones via the Interactive National Weather Service (or iNWS); NWSChat software for emergency managers; and NOAA Weather Radio receivers located at the EOC, 9-1-1 Communications Center, and School Superintendent's Office. Alerts also are received via the MEMA Health and Homeland Alert Network (HHAN), the MA Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), and MEMA's situational awareness reports. Twitter, WebEOC, and tv stations (including NECN and The Weather Channel) also are monitored for warnings.

Once a warning is received, the Hanover Emergency Management Agency has procedures in place to disseminate the warnings to key town responders. The word gets out to all department heads and additional designees as part of a 'severe weather group' within the Red Alert paging system, which is operated by HEMA (Hanover EMA), Police Department Station Clerks, and/or the Regional Old Colony Communications Center. The word is able to get out to the public via a Reverse 9-1-1 calling system. Information is also posted on social media and the town website.

Hanover has a good weather monitoring system in place, in addition to the multiple ways of receiving warnings. The National Weather Service radar loop is monitored. A private application called "Radar Scope" also is monitored. You have a lightning action plan in place and you have a few hand-held lightning detectors, which can be provided to event permit holders. These can be very helpful for outdoor athletic or entertainment events - lightning safety is of utmost importance!

Your town has become weather savvy! I know that EMA routinely monitors our Area Forecast Discussions and Hazardous Weather Outlook to understand why we're forecasting what we are. After spending time with your school superintendent, we know how very weather savvy he is, too! Hanover has written Standard Operating Procedures for hazardous weather, which define actions to be taken by dispatchers and EMA personnel for severe weather watches and warnings, including reporting any damage directly to the National Weather Service. There are plans for activating/staffing the EOC – three different levels, depending on the criticality of the event. During the past 3 years, you have participated in wind storm, blizzard, and tornado exercises. Hazardous weather information is distributed at community events and fairs as well as during home safety visits. Some of your staff have attended our virtual Skywarn Weather Spotter programs. And, you recently became a National Weather Service "Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador," which means that you espouse the principles of the program – namely outreach to the public about weather risks, to make this a more prepared, safer nation. Once again, many thanks... and congratulations on a job extremely well done!

Sincerely,

Glenn Field,  
Warning Coordination Meteorologist

