

Okaloosa County News Release

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Ready Okaloosa Recognized by NACo *Public Safety Wins Achievement Award*

Okaloosa County Public Safety Department wins the **2009 Achievement Award** for the Ready Okaloosa program. The **National Association of Counties (NACo)** recognizes winning programs and highlights them as a model for other counties through its website and newsletters. "NACo is proud to confer this award and recognize your county's hard work to promote quality, efficient and responsive (Public Safety) management and administration," stated Executive Director Larry Naake.

"It is great to have this program recognized by NACo at a time that we are encouraging residents to get ready for the storm season and be "Ready Okaloosa," stated Public Safety Director Dino Villani. Ready Okaloosa is a combined effort of the American Red Cross of Northwest Florida, United Way, Okaloosa Walton College, Americorp, Okaloosa County Public Safety and the Sheriff's Office to assist residents with knowledge, preparation and guidance for storms and evacuation.

"Ready Okaloosa" empowers our citizens, which helps Public Safety to be more responsive, provide education and awareness, and ultimately save lives," added Emergency Management Division Chief Randy McDaniel. Over 1600 residents have registered for Ready Okaloosa.

To sign up for **Ready Okaloosa or Code Red Weather Warnings**, please contact the Okaloosa County Public Safety Department at **850-651-7150** or visit www.okaloosafl.com. Code Red Weather Warnings call **residents** if inclement weather is in **their neighborhood**.

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