

Coronado National Forest Recognized as 2018 Weather Ready Nation Ambassador of Excellence

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) have developed the Weather Ready Nation (WRN) Ambassador Initiative to help improve the nation's readiness, responsiveness, and overall resilience against extreme weather, water, and climate events. Nationwide, there are over 8,000 WRN Ambassadors committed to working with NOAA, the NWS and other Ambassadors to strengthen resilience against extreme weather. WRN Ambassadors extend across government, non-profits, academia, and private industry and share the goal of making the nation more ready, responsive, and resilient against extreme environmental hazards.



NWS Tucson Warning Coordination Meteorologist Ken Drozd, Coronado National Forest Public Affairs Officer Heidi Schewel and Safety Program Manager Leo J. Holley II

This year, NWS Tucson nominated the United States Forest Service (USFS) Coronado National Forest (CNF) as the 2018 Ambassador of Excellence for ensuring its employees are well versed in weather safety rules so that they can stay safe and protect visitors to the forest, and make them aware of weather-related hazards such as extreme heat,

lightning, wildfires and flash flooding. Each year, over a half million people visit the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area where they can read the many available safety materials and speak to forest rangers before making informed decisions as to how they will choose to safely enjoy the beauty of the forest.

Public Affairs Officer Heidi Schewel said CNF educates employees on how to obtain weather forecasts and warnings so they can relay it to visitors to the forest. Ms. Schewel and others take part in numerous media interviews each year to help spread the word about how to stay safe in the forest. In addition, CNF participates in NWS Monsoon Safety Awareness Week activities including the annual safety fair. Finally, representatives from the CNF work with the NWS and other land agencies to ensure a communications plan is up to date prior to each fire weather season.



Public Affairs Officer Heidi Schewel



The National Weather Service speaks with forest personnel and others about weather safety.

NWS Tucson now has over 60 local Weather Ready Nation Ambassadors across Southeast Arizona. The Ambassador initiative recognizes leaders in the community that help build community resilience in the face of extreme weather events – from promoting safety messages in outreach activities, to being a “weather-ready” role model. Any

organization can become a Weather Ready Nation Ambassador. Schools, government agencies, private businesses, civic organizations, homeowner associations and others can apply online at [weather.gov/wrn/ambassadors](https://www.weather.gov/wrn/ambassadors). If you have questions about the WRN Ambassador program, or the online application, please contact Ken Drozd at kenneth.drozd@noaa.gov