

EVERYONE CAN BE A SPOTTER

Storm spotters play a vital role in the warning process by providing *ground truth* – information about what is happening on the ground – about the storms the National Weather Service (NWS) sees on radar and satellite. Storm spotters become the remote eyes and ears of the NWS, providing critical information about the storm structure and features that can only be seen from the ground. NWS meteorologists constantly evaluate all this information, and make critical warning decisions that save lives.

Storm spotters are community volunteers that are typically coordinated by local emergency management agencies, amateur radio clubs, fire departments, or rescue squads. Local NWS offices work closely with these organizations to train spotters on storm structure, safety, and reporting procedures, usually in the spring and fall each year.

Anyone can become a storm spotter! Check with your county's emergency management agency or your local NWS office's webpage for a schedule of classes and information. While you're there, check out the latest information on evolving NWS web-based storm reporting technologies!



Meteorologist Kelly Godsey presents a Storm Spotter Class.



<-- eSpotter is a program by which trained spotters can submit storm reports to the NWS. Spotters can register on the eSpotter website at <http://espotter.weather.gov>.

The general public may submit their storm reports via the "Submit a Storm Report" link which can be found on the front page of many of the NWS offices' websites. -->



SKYWARN



Assisting the educational effort to prepare Alabamians for severe weather, the Alabama SKYWARN Foundation is a non-profit organization established to provide local help to the NWS in promoting statewide weather education. Education and advance preparedness are key elements in keeping deaths and injuries to a minimum. When we understand the dangers Alabama weather brings and the safety precautions needed when the weather threatens, people in Alabama can respond quickly in the face of danger.

The Alabama SKYWARN Foundation relies on tax deductible donations to underwrite the costs of producing and distributing weather-related educational material. The Foundation hopes that with your support additional efforts can be undertaken to improve severe weather safety and awareness across our great state. More information about the Foundation can be found at www.alabamaskywarn.org.