



# SKYWARN® Spotter Classes



SKYWARN® Spotter Classes are offered free of charge from the combined efforts of your local National Weather Service Forecast Office and typically either local government, local civic groups, or centers of higher learning. A National Weather Service meteorologist will teach the class and bring related materials.

The classes are designed to educate the public on weather threats in this area, as well as strengthen the ties between the NWS and the local community. The more spotters the NWS has out there, the faster vital ground truth information gets to the NWS forecasters who make the decisions to issue lifesaving weather warnings.

## The classes that are offered:

### Basics

**This course is a prerequisite for all other courses.** Basics I is a good general overview of what it means to be a spotter as well as the basics of the different weather phenanomon that impacts the Mid-Atlantic. Upon completion of the course, you will be registered in the program by the NWS. You will receive a spotter code from the NWS within 6 weeks. Training in Basics I includes:

- The Basic Organization of the National Weather Service
- The Role and Importance of the Skywarn Spotter
- Reporting of Hazardous Weather
- NWS Products and the Watch/Warning/Advisory system
- Thunderstorm, Flooding, Tropical and Winter Weather Threats
- The Role of Amateur Short-wave (HAM) Radio in the Spotter Program

### Tropical

Training in the Tropical class is a good overview of tropical weather threats in this area. It is intended for everyone. **Basics I is a prerequisite for this class.** The Tropical class includes:

- Types of tropical cyclones
- Ingredients of meteorology necessary for Tropical cyclones
- Hazards from tropical cyclones (storm surge, inland flooding, winds, tornadoes)
- Hurricane climatology (where they form, typical tracks, season)
- Local hurricane history
- How they are observed and forecast
- How to prepare and react?

## **Winter Storm**

Training in the Winter Storm class is a good overview of winter weather threats in this area. It is intended for everyone. **Basics I is a prerequisite for this class.** The Winter Storm class includes:

- Winter Hazards in this Region
- Winter Normals and Extremes
- Winter Storm Ingredients
- NWS Forecasts and Products
- Role of Skywarn and Reporting
- Winter Preparation and Safety

## **Flood**

Training in the Flood class is a good overview of flood threats in this area. It is intended for everyone. **Basics I is a prerequisite for this class.** The Flood class includes:

- Role of spotters & review of area
- What to report & how
- Types of Flooding
- Forecasting and Meteorology of Flooding
- Flooding Case Studies
- NWS products for flooding