



NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING

Wednesday * November 4, 2009

5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

There is **NO** charge for this class

LOCATION Peninsula College
PUB Conference Room
Port Angeles, Washington 98362

Call 417-2483, or 417-2525

REGISTRATION:

CLALLAM COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
223 EAST 4TH STREET
PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON 98363
EMAIL: web_em@co.clallam.wa.us
PHONE: 360-417-2483, or 417-2525

Please RSVP so an appropriate number of handout materials can be available.

Weather Forecast Office

Located at the NOAA Western Regional Center in Seattle, this National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office provides weather and flood warnings, daily forecasts, and meteorologic and hydrologic data for Western Washington, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the coastal waters from Cape Flattery to Cape Shoalwater.

WHAT IS SKYWARN?

The effects of severe weather are felt every year by many Americans. To obtain critical weather information, NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, established SKYWARN with partner organizations. SKYWARN is a volunteer program with nearly 280,000 trained severe weather spotters.

WHAT IS A SKYWARN WEATHER SPOTTER?

SKYWARN Weather Spotters are volunteers, trained to observe and report significant weather. NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service and access to communication (e.g. phone, internet, or amateur radio) to join the program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers, and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches, nursing homes, or who have responsibility for protecting others are also encouraged to become spotters.

Weather Spotters support their local community and emergency managers by providing the NWS with timely and accurate severe weather reports. These reports are an integral part of the NWS mission to help save lives and property through flood and weather watches, warnings, and advisories. Accurate and reliable weather information from the general public is often difficult to obtain. The NWS has found that trained weather spotters greatly improve information quality. The NWS works with other volunteer organizations in the SKYWARN Weather Spotter program such as Amateur Radio, the American Red Cross, and local emergency managers.

Since 1950, Washington State is among the leaders in Presidential declared weather-related disasters in the United States.