



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, May 8, 2012

From: Eric Kurth, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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Re: Weather Spotter Training, Saturday, June 2, 2012, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm,
Regional Fire Training Center, 1220 Fire Science Lane, Modesto.

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Sacramento will be conducting Weather Spotter Training for Stanislaus County residents on Saturday, June 2nd. This training will enable interested adults to become volunteers for Project SKYWARN™, which helps keep local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. The training is free and will take place from 10:00 am and 12:00 PM at the Regional Fire Training Center, 1220 Fire Science Lane in Modesto.

This training is co-sponsored by the Modesto Regional Fire Authority and Stanislaus ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services). Residents outside of the county are also welcome to attend.

Storm spotters play a valuable role in the severe weather warning process. The National Weather Service relies on visual observations from spotters to provide critical information that would otherwise not be available to forecasters. Spotter reports are combined with data from doppler radar and satellite pictures to provide a complete understanding of severe storms and their impact on the public.

The training will begin with a review of severe weather safety tips and severe weather operations at the National Weather Service. Basic storm spotter training will include visual indicators of strong winds, hail, tornadoes, lightning, fire weather, flooding and thunderstorm formation. We will demonstrate how your reports are used in the weather warning process and identify some critical elements we need to know. The presentation will also discuss the forecast process and how you can help the NWS to issue the best possible warnings to protect the public from severe weather.

This training will help attendees learn about the severe weather that we experience in the area. The development of storms will be discussed, along with visual clues which may indicate that the weather is about to turn severe. We will also go over safety tips to allow citizens to be well-prepared for the occurrence of storms. Communication of weather reports to the National Weather Service will be explained. Your spotter reports will help Stanislaus County be better prepared when severe weather occurs!

Spotter guides, cloud charts and severe weather pamphlets will be provided to potential new weather spotters. Applications will be made available to become a volunteer weather spotter. Once we receive your application at the National Weather Service, you will be assigned a spotter number and we will send you an information packet.

There will also be an opportunity to discuss and join the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow) across the U.S.

For more information, you can contact Eric Kurth (eric.kurth@noaa.gov). The office phone number is (916) 979-3051, if you do not have access to e-mail. We look forward to seeing you there!