



# SKYWARN® SPOTTERS

**S**KYWARN® spotters provide lifesaving information for all types of environmental hazards. However, the main responsibility of a spotter is to report severe local storms. More than 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and 1,000 tornadoes occur in the U.S. during an average year. If that wasn't enough, spotters are also trained to report snowfall, earthquakes, landslides, avalanches, volcanic ash fall, and coastal hazards such as tsunamis, water spouts and rip currents.

**S**ince the program started in the 1960s, SKYWARN® reports, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite data and other resources, have enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

**S**KYWARN® storm spotters form the Nation's first line of defense against severe weather. The efforts of these volunteers give communities the precious gift of time - seconds and minutes that can help save lives.

## Who is Eligible?

**A**nyone with interest in weather and in helping their community is welcome. Offices have various ways of receiving reports including amateur radio, phone, email and social media. SKYWARN® Spotters include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and the public. NWS encourages everyone to become a weather spotter.

## How Can I Get Involved?

**E**ach NWS office administers the SKYWARN® program and offers training for their local forecast area. The NWS Gray office is responsible for all of New Hampshire and western Maine. SKYWARN® classes are free and typically last about two hours. To learn more about SKYWARN® program offered by NWS Gray and any scheduled classes, please visit: <https://www.weather.gov/gyx/skywarn>. If you have any questions concerning the SKYWARN® program, please contact us at [gyx.skywarn@noaa.gov](mailto:gyx.skywarn@noaa.gov).

**A**lthough the NWS Gray prefers that you attend a local training class, we do accept weather spotters who complete the Online SKYWARN® Training course. Please use the link below. Make sure to select that you will allow your information shared with the NWS.

[https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training\\_course.php?id=23](https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23)

