

Are you ready to become an official weather spotter?

Open to residents of Orange, San Diego, southwestern San Bernardino and western Riverside Counties. Complete the required training in-person or online.

Skywarn Weather Spotter training online:

If you can not attend a spotter training class in person this is the best method to sign up!

<https://www.weather.gov/sqx/skywarn>

<https://www.weather.gov/stormready/ca-cwa>

At your pace review the **2 hour training presentation**, and sign up by completing the information to be used by NWS officials only (*separate link AFTER training*).

Skywarn Weather Spotter Training residence:

- 1) Attend a spotter training introduction presentation in various locations in our region. This training will cover the details about being a weather spotter and the local hazards in Southern California. The residence training is encouraged for all new spotters and for current weather spotters as a refresher.
- 2) After the course you will still have take the short exam and sign up with your information at the above link. We will then assign you an official weather spotter identification number.

Advanced Skywarn Weather Training

Attend advanced residence training at various locations and dates TBD. Also, you may join amateur radio weather nets, or the national spotter network

<http://www.spotternetwork.org/>

Resource Information

How to become a Skywarn Spotter:

<https://www.weather.gov/sqx/skywarn> (information)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NydrhHhOBXo>

(train online)

National Weather Service Skywarn **contact information** for all of California:

<https://www.weather.gov/images/stormready/contact-maps/ca-cwa.png>

Southwest Skywarn website and Facebook: (covers 4 counties):

<http://www.swskywarn.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/swskywarn/>

Riverside County and San Bernardino County Skywarn Facebook website:

<https://www.facebook.com/SanBernardinoCountySkywarn>

<https://www.facebook.com/RivCoSkywarn>

San Diego County Skywarn Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SanDiegoCountySkywarn/>

Orange County Skywarn website and Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/OCskywarn>

Southwest Skywarn Yahoo Group (sign in):

https://groups.yahoo.com/group/SW_SKYWARN/

For additional information, you are encouraged to **contact the coordinator for your area** from the contact information listing at:

<http://www.swskywarn.org/Contacts.htm>

More training:

https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23

Ham radio weekly weather nets: Contact county coordinators Phill Dupree, Scott O'Donnell, Ed



SKYWARN

Become a
Skywarn
weather spotter
for the
National
Weather
Service



<http://swskywarn.org>

Who is Skywarn?

Skywarn™ is a nationwide network of volunteer weather spotters who report to and are trained by the National Weather Service (NWS). These spotters report many forms of significant or severe weather such as severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, damaging winds, fog, hail, heavy snow, icy roads and flooding.

The staff at the NWS Forecast Office in San Diego is responsible for issuing local forecasts and severe weather warnings for much of Southwestern California. Skywarn™ Spotters provide a valuable service by providing ground truth so the NWS can correlate impact with what is seen on radar to what is actually occurring, help warn downstream communities, add value to statements and warnings, and verify forecasts and warnings. Spotters act as the eyes and ears of the National Weather Service, helping to provide better services .

What do we do?

Safety is the top priority for the SKYWARN Weather Spotter program. The NWS does not encourage its SKYWARN weather spotters to engage in storm chasing, however, the NWS does recognize that SKYWARN spotters engaged in mobile activities may encounter severe weather and should be alert to rapidly changing weather conditions that could impact personal safety.

The spotter network is usually activated whenever there is a threat of severe weather. This is usually preceded by the issuance of a Flash Flood Watch or other

type of watch. Spotters are asked to report any occurrence of severe weather to your Skywarn™ Emergency Coordinator, Skywarn™ Net Amateur Radio Controller or directly to the NWS by the telephone, an online reporting form, social media such as Facebook or Twitter, or a mobile report using either cell phone or amateur radio. Photos are also appreciated—submit via Facebook or email. If you see any of the following, please let us know!

- Heavy rainfall
- Flooding
- Flash flooding (rapid water rises over 6 inches)
- Snowfall, icing, chain and road closures
- Freezing rain or mixed precipitation level
- Damaging winds that down trees, large limbs and power poles/lines or any wind producing property damage or injury
- Extreme heat or cold
- Dense fog or dust with near zero visibility
- Thunderstorms and lightning that produces fire, damage or injury
- Hail any size
- Tornadoes, water spouts, funnel clouds and any rotating cloud
- Surf, six feet or more, and any flooding or damage caused by high tides or large surf
- Strong rip currents
- Any other event that you feel may help determine the severity of storms

How to submit a report

When you have completed your training and are accepted as a Skywarn Spotter or a Weather Spotter, you will be given a private phone number to call to submit your storm and severe weather reports. You can also use the [online form](#) at: weather.gov/SanDiego (under hazards)

<https://inws.ncep.noaa.gov/report/>

In addition, amateur radio nets may be activated in times of severe weather emergencies or the potential for storm damage or dangerous conditions. Check the Skywarn website for your local area to obtain the frequencies used in your area. The most common form of amateur radio reporting is by using local FM repeaters on the 2-meter band.

Benefits for becoming a Skywarn Weather Spotter

1. You will take part in helping to save lives and property, or lessen impact, which is the primary National Weather Service's mission.
2. You will receive the FREE quarterly newsletter, *Coast to Cactus*, which will keep you informed about the spotter program, our local weather and NWS.
3. It is free, satisfying, and exciting!
4. Receive a free new pocket weather guide and cloud chart at residence training in your community!
5. Tours of the NWS office are offered to weather spotters. Contact your county Skywarn coordinator or the NWS office (alexander.tardy@noaa.gov).

Skywarn Public Information Officer:
Tom Smerk: tsmerk@sdccd.edu

