



## Charleston County News Release

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### **County Offers Free SKYWARN™ Weather Spotter Class March 7**

Register for the two-hour, free class by email at [jtarter@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:jtarter@charlestoncounty.org) or by phone at (843) 202-7405

[Charleston County Government's Emergency Management Department](#) is offering a free class for citizens who want to help warn officials about local weather changes.

[SKYWARN™](#) is a voluntary program developed by the [National Weather Service \(NWS\)](#). The NWS needs real-time reports of hail size, wind damage, flash flooding, heavy rain and tornadoes in order to effectively warn the public. SKYWARN™ volunteers serve as storm spotters for the NWS and local emergency management programs. Volunteers serve as the eyes and ears for the whole community.

Anyone interested in becoming a SKYWARN™ weather spotter can attend the NWS Basic Weather Spotter Class, which is hosted by Charleston County Government. The class is free and lasts approximately two hours.

The Basic Weather Spotter Class is required to become a certified NWS SKYWARN™ weather spotter. The training is provided by the NWS and will include a brief introduction to the NWS; the different types of hazardous weather and how to safely observe them; and the types of severe weather to report and how to send those reports to the NWS. No prior knowledge of weather or weather observing is necessary to take this class.

#### **Basic Weather Spotter Class**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 7, 2012

**Time:** 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Charleston County Public Services Building, third floor room 339 (Emergency Operations Center); 4045 Bridgeview Drive; N. Charleston, SC 29405

To register for the basic and/or advanced classes, contact James Tarter, Training Coordinator for the Charleston County Emergency Management Department, by email at [jtarter@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:jtarter@charlestoncounty.org) or by phone at (843) 202-7405.

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- written by Jennie Flinn -