

Charleston County News Release

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County Offers Free SKYWARN[™] Weather Spotter Class Nov 15

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

<u>Charleston County Government's Emergency Management Department</u> is offering a free class for citizens who want to help warn officials about local weather changes.

Basic Weather Spotter Class

Date: Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Location: Charleston County Public Services Building, third floor room 339 (Emergency

Operations Center); 4045 Bridgeview Drive; N. Charleston, SC 29405

SKYWARNTM 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. SKYWARNTM 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 SKYWARNTM 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 SKYWARNTM 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.

To register for the Nov. 15 Basic Weather Spotter Class, contact James Tarter, Training Coordinator for the Charleston County Emergency Management Department, by email at jtarter@charlestoncounty.org or by phone at (843) 202-7405.

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- written by Jennie Flinn -