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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler County offers free 'storm spotters' class

April 5, 2017 – Flagler County Emergency Services and the National Weather Service will host a Skywarn Storm Spotter class.

The class will be taught by Cindy Elsenheimer, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, and it will cover everything from cloud formations to thunderstorm development to visual predictions. It will be held at 6 p.m. April 17 at the Emergency Operations Center located behind the Government Services Building, 1769 E. Moody Blvd., Bunnell.

Those who participate in the class are eligible to become volunteer storm spotters and assist Emergency Services and the National Weather Service by reporting potentially hazardous weather events.

While warnings for thunderstorms are only issued for hail and high winds, lightning is part of all storms and is the cause of more deaths in the United States than tornadoes and hurricanes, according to the National Weather Service.

“Trained storm spotters serve as the local eyes of the National Weather Service,” said Bob Pickering, Flagler County Emergency Management Technician. “These reports from storm spotters mean that earlier warnings may be issued. This helps everyone in Flagler County.”

Storm spotter classes are held infrequently because of the limited availability of meteorologists with the National Weather Service to come teach the class.

Find out more about the [Skywarn Storm Spotters Program](http://www.flaglercounty.org/SkywarnStormSpottersProgram) at [flaglercounty.org](http://www.flaglercounty.org) under the “Webcams and Weather” tab. Also watch the [Scud Buster Diaries](#), Storm Log 1 and 2, under the same tab.

Registration is required, and can be done by calling Pickering at 386-313-4250, or by email at bpickering@flaglercounty.org.

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