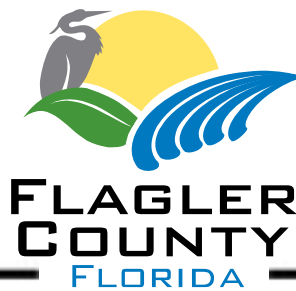


Administration
1769 E. Moody Blvd Bldg 2
Bunnell, FL 32110



www.flaglercounty.org

Phone: (386)313-4001

Fax: (386)313-4101

Julie Murphy
Flagler County
Public Information Officer
(386) 313-4039
Email jmurphy@flaglercounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Record attendance at Flagler's Skywarn Storm Spotter class

February 2, 2018 – A record number of participants – 72 – turned out Wednesday for the Skywarn Storm Spotter class that was hosted by Flagler County Emergency Management at the Emergency Operations Center.

Angie Enyedi, assistant warning and coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service, taught the class to Flagler County residents eager to become part of the county's volunteer storm spotter team.



“It is so important for us to have well-trained volunteers, because Flagler County is located within the gap of the nearest Doppler radar towers,” said Emergency Management Chief Jonathan Lord. “These storm spotters serve as the local eyes of the National Weather Service.”

Flagler County has been hosting Skywarn Storm Spotter classes in coordination with the National Weather Service since 1995.

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Nate McLaughlin
District 4

Donald O'Brien, Jr.
District 5

“More than 2,000 residents have received this training in the past 23 years,” said Emergency Management Technician Bob Pickering, who has organized all 51 classes. “Storm spotter reports from Flagler County to the National Weather Service have included: waterspouts, hail, wall clouds, flooding, and even developing tornadoes before they could be detected by weather radar.”

Storm spotters made 181 reports to the National Weather Service in 2017 that met the “severe” criteria. They also helped relay real-time information during Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Flagler County was the first county in Florida to be certified as “Storm Ready” when the Storm Ready Program began in 1999. The criteria for certification includes both training and the flow of information to the National Weather Service.

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