

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

Free Skywarn Storm Spotter class February 22

February 13, 2019 – Flagler County Emergency Services and the National Weather Service will host a free Skywarn Storm Spotter class on Friday, February 22, at the Emergency Operations Center.

Ben Nelson, meteorologist with the National Weather Service, will teach the class. It will cover everything from cloud formations to thunderstorm development to visual predictions.

Those who participate in the class – which begins at 6 p.m. February 22 – 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. Additionally, Flagler County is located within the gap of the nearest Doppler radar towers.

“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.

“More than 2,000 residents have received this training in the past 24 years,” said Emergency Management Technician Bob Pickering, who has organized all 53 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.”

Find out more about the [Skywarn Storm Spotters Program](#) at flaglercounty.org under the “Webcams and Weather” tab. Also, watch [The Scud Buster Diaries](#) under the same tab.

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Joe Mullins
District 4

Donald O’Brien, Jr.
District 5

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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