

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

SKYWARN is a concept developed in the late 1960s that was intended to promote a cooperative effort between the National Weather Service and communities. The emphasis of the effort is often focused on the storm spotter, an individual who takes a position near their community and reports wind gusts, hail size, rainfall, and cloud formations that could signal a developing tornado. Another part of SKYWARN is the receipt and effective communication of National Weather Service information.

Each year in Northern Michigan, the National Weather Service in Gaylord presents Skywarn Spotter Safety Courses across the area. The presentations are **FREE**, open to the public and usually last about 1 1/2 hours. There is no need to pre-register, just show up the night of the presentation. The program provides details about how to become an official weather spotter and how to make a complete report to the National Weather Service.

Each person that attends is given severe weather handouts, an official laminated National Weather Service spotter card, and access to a special 800# specifically set aside for spotters in Northern Michigan. If you are interested in learning more about storm spotting and severe weather, you are encouraged to attend one of these presentations.

This year's talk will cover topics ranging from basic tornado development, to severe weather safety, to how to make a complete spotter report to the National Weather Service.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call the National Weather Service in Gaylord at (989) 731-3384.