



# FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Steve Cooper, Planner, Emergency Preparedness, at 301-600-6796

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: March 27, 2014

### **Frederick County Division of Emergency Management Partners with National Weather Service to Offer SKYWARN® Spotter Basics I Class**

**FREDERICK, MD** – A SKYWARN® Spotter Basics I Class is being offered free of charge by the combined efforts of the local National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office and Frederick County Division of Emergency Management.

The class will be taught by a National Weather Service meteorologist, and is designed to educate the public on weather threats in this area, as well as strengthen the ties between the NWS and the local community. The more spotters the NWS has, the faster vital ground truth information gets to the NWS forecasters who make the decisions to issue life saving weather warnings.

Basics I is a general overview of severe weather for the general public. Upon completion of the course, attendees will be registered in the SKYWARN® Spotter program and will receive a spotter code from the NWS within six weeks.

Training in Basics I includes:

- The basic organization of the National Weather Service
- The role and importance of the SKYWARN® Spotter
- NWS products and the Watch/Warning/Advisory system
- Thunderstorms and their associated threats
- How to report vital info to the NWS
- The role of amateur short-wave (HAM) radio in the Spotter Program

The Basics I Class is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2014, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Frederick County Public Training Facility, Classroom 130, 5370 Public Safety Place, Frederick Md.

To qualify as a trained spotter, participants must be at least 14 years of age. Pre-registration is required and the class will be limited to the first 50 registrants.

To register, e-mail name, address and telephone number to [em@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:em@frederickcountymd.gov) or call 301-600-1746.

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