



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

December 7, 1995

Dear Emergency Managers:

Even with winter just starting, it is time to start thinking about the upcoming severe weather season. This is the time to start planning for your county's Skywarn spotter session. Last spring and summer, White Lake verified close to 80 percent of the warnings that were issued and had a false alarm percentage of only 22 percent, far exceeding all past severe weather performances. Without the help of your county's spotters, accurate and timely warnings would not be possible. At this time we invite you to think about setting up a time for the Skywarn program. There are several changes in the Skywarn program that will be the basis for a more efficient and improved program.

First, we would like all requests for Skywarn programs to come from the Emergency Management office in each county. Therefore, any request that comes directly into the White Lake office will be referred to the proper county's Emergency Management office. This mode of operation will make it easier for you to keep track of your spotters within your county. We believe the Emergency Management offices should be in charge of their county's spotter program, although we will assist in anyway that we can with setting up, recruiting, and maintaining your spotter networks. The NWS will then have 17 points of contact for Skywarn meetings, one in each county.

Skywarn programs will be scheduled from February 15th through April 15th. Initially, one talk will be scheduled per county and after all 17 counties have scheduled a program, other talks can be scheduled for the more populated counties. The National Weather Service will not keep a list of spotters that attend this year's meetings, but we will continue to keep a running total of the number spotters and a general mailing list for the spotter newsletter. The NWS will also continue to maintain our Call Volunteer List of spotters, our snowfall spotters, and rain gauge spotters.

Some of the other changes will include going back to a two tier system. The two tiers will be called **Basic** and **Advanced**. This year, counties should schedule a basic program before an advanced program. We recommend scheduling one program per night as each tier will run close to two hours. There will be no written quiz at the end of the program. A quiz will be available, if you wish to administer it.





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There will be more video segments, locally produced slides, and video of the 88-D Doppler radar in action during some severe events from last year, including the July 13th windstorm.

Thank you for you time. Please contact the NWS in White Lake at (810) 625-4249 or (810) 625-3309 Ext. 726 to schedule a Skywarn session by January 15th. When you call please have the date, location, and time of the Skywarn meeting ready. Also, let us know if you would like the general public invited and we can broadcast that information on National Weather Service Weather Radio. Please pass this information along to your Emergency Coordinators and local Emergency Managers in your county. We look forward to seeing you in the upcoming months.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard B. Pollman".

Richard B. Pollman
Warning and Preparedness
Program Leader

