



**Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency  
Management  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 4, 2018**

**SKYWARN Storm Spotter Basic Course to be held in Jefferson County on November 7, 2018**

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management has invited the National Weather Service to teach a SKYWARN Storm Spotter Basic course on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. The class will be held at the Independent Fire Company, located at 200 West 2nd Avenue, Ranson, WV 25438, please use the West 3rd Avenue entrance of the building. This class is free and open to the public.

SKYWARN courses are designed to educate the public on weather threats in this area, as well as strengthen the ties between the National Weather Service and the local community. The more spotters the National Weather Service has out there, the faster vital ground truth information gets to the National Weather Service (NWS) forecasters who make the decisions to issue life-saving weather warnings.

By attending this course, you will be trained by NWS personnel to recognize features associated with developing, mature, and dissipating thunderstorms which cause hazardous weather such as lightning, flooding, hail, tornadoes, and downbursts. The attendee will also learn basics about winter weather and tropical hazards.

At the end of the course, you will be assigned a SKYWARN spotter number which will be maintained in the official database at the NWS in Sterling. You will also be directed how to report this vital weather information. For those who have attended in the past but want a refresher, please feel free to attend. We would love to see you again!

This SKYWARN Spotter Class is offered free of charge from the combined efforts of your local National Weather Service Forecast Office, Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and Independent Fire Company. A National Weather Service meteorologist will teach the class and provide related materials.

**Registration is required to attend the class!**

In order to register, please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skywarn-basics-jefferson-county-tickets-50757979483>

If you have any questions please contact Brandon Vallee, Public Information Officer, Jefferson County, WV Homeland Security & Emergency Management at (304) 724-8914 or [bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org).

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