

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREENVILLE-SPARTANBURG SC

355 PM EST THU JAN 4 2007

...A RECORD NUMBER OF SEVERE THUNDERSTORM EVENTS DURING 2006...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN GREENVILLE-SPARTANBURG HAS CONFIRMED 631 SEVERE THUNDERSTORM EVENTS DURING 2006...WHICH INCLUDES EIGHT TORNADOES. THE PREVIOUS RECORD WAS 536 EVENTS IN 2003. THE AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF EVENTS SINCE 2000 IS 350. A COMBINATION OF A VERY ACTIVE SPRING AND SUMMER THUNDERSTORM SEASON AND GREATER INVOLVEMENT FROM SKYWARN SPOTTERS AND COUNTY AGENCIES RESULTED IN THE RECORD NUMBER OF EVENTS.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DEFINITION OF A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM... AND THUS A SEVERE WEATHER EVENT...IS BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA: PENNY SIZE OR LARGER SIZE HAIL...DAMAGING WINDS (OR MEASURED WIND GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 58 MPH)...OR A TORNADO. HOWEVER...BOTH SEVERE AND NON-SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS PRODUCE LIGHTNING. CLOUD TO GROUND LIGHTNING IS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF THUNDERSTORM RELATED DEATHS AND INJURIES...PRECEDED ONLY BY FLOODING. SINCE EVERY THUNDERSTORM IS A POTENTIAL THREAT TO LIFE OR PROPERTY...EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A SAFETY PLAN FOR WHEN A WARNING IS ISSUED OR WHEN THUNDER IS HEARD.

STORM REPORTS ARE CRITICAL TO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SEVERE WEATHER PROGRAM. ONCE A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM OR TORNADO WARNING IS ISSUED...REPORTS ARE NEEDED TO DETERMINE IF THE THUNDERSTORM PRODUCED DAMAGING WEATHER. THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO USED TO DECIDE IF A WARNING IS NEEDED WHEN THE THUNDERSTORM ADVANCES TO A NEIGHBORING COUNTY. THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN GREENVILLE-SPARTANBURG HAS A TRAINING PROGRAM TO TEACH CITIZENS HOW TO REPORT SEVERE WEATHER. WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING TO TRAIN MORE OF THESE SKYWARN SPOTTERS...ESPECIALLY IN LESS POPULATED COUNTIES. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER SKYWARN SPOTTER FOR THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE...EMAIL US AT GSP.WEBMASTER@NOAA.GOV.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF CONFIRMED SEVERE THUNDERSTORM EVENTS DURING 2006 WITHIN THE COUNTY WARNING AREA OF THE GREENVILLE-SPARTANBURG NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE. REPORTS OF TORNADOES ARE INDICATED BY THE VALUE BESIDE THE /T/.

ABBEVILLE SC.....12	GRAHAM NC.....4	MITCHELL NC.....3
ALEXANDER SC.....6	GREENVILLE SC..29	OCONEE SC.....18
ANDERSON SC.....24	GREENWOOD SC...12	PICKENS SC.....17
AVERY NC.....6	HABERSHAM GA....7	POLK NC.....8
BUNCOMBE NC.....12	HART GA.....6	RABUN GA.....9
BURKE NC.....16	HAYWOOD NC.....8	ROWAN NC.....20
CABARRUS NC.....10(1T)	HENDERSON NC...14	RUTHERFORD NC...14
CALDWELL NC.....11	IREDELL NC.....21(1T)	SPARTANBURG SC..33

CATAWBA NC.....19	JACKSON NC.....13	STEPHENS GA.....9
CHEROKEE SC.....18	LAURENS SC.....28(1T)	SWAIN NC.....5
CHESTER SC.....12	LINCOLN NC.....16(2T)	TRANSYLVANIA NC.15
CLEVELAND NC.....26	MACON NC.....9	UNION NC.....13
DAVIE NC.....11	MADISON NC.....9	UNION SC.....14
ELBERT GA.....6	MCDOWELL NC....13	YANCEY NC.....3
FRANKLIN GA.....4	MECKLENBURG NC.23	YORK SC.....21
GASTON NC.....24(3T)		

\$\$

NED