

## How Do I Become A Volunteer Weather Spotter?

It's easy! Just let us know that you are interested...

Via e-mail or phone:  
juneau.weather@noaa.gov or call us at: (907) 790 - 6800.

In your e-mail or phone call, please provide us with:

Your Name, Address, Telephone Number, Email Address, Dates and Times that you may be available for training and any weather equipment you may own.



**Flooding on the Stikine River**

The National Weather Service office in Juneau will provide you with the training and materials you need to be a weather spotter. Training is available at our office in Juneau

or on our webpage - <http://weather.gov/juneau/spotter.php>.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a vital member of the National Weather Service Team!

## Weather Spotter Tips

- Always practice safety first! Never put yourself in harm's way.
- If you own a camera, try capturing the weather phenomena (flooding, water spout, etc.) or damage (trees downed by winds) that you are observing. Those images can help us teach new forecasters, spotters, and children in our schools.
- Water spouts are tornadoes over water. Generally, they produce wind speeds of 60 mph or more. Never pilot your boat near a water spout.
- Although lightning is uncommon in parts of Alaska, it is just as deadly as it is elsewhere. Visit our lightning web page, [www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov) for important safety information.
- Nearly half of all flood fatalities are auto related. Avoid driving through flooded highway dips and low areas. A depth of two inches of water moving at 6 mph will carry away most vehicles. Turn Around, Don't Drown!

## How to submit your Weather Spotter report in Southeast Alaska:

Submit your reports through our website at:  
<http://weather.gov/juneau/spotter.php>

You can also call in your report to our Weather Service offices:

In the Juneau area call (907) 790-6800  
In the Yakutat area call (907) 784-3322  
In the Annette area call (907) 886-3241  
In the Ketchikan area call (907) 225-9560

## Weather Spotter Program

Working Together To Save Lives

Serving Southeast Alaska

JUNEAU, ALASKA

8500 Mendenhall Loop Road

Juneau, Alaska 99801

TEL: 907 - 790 - 6800

FAX: 907 - 790 - 6827

AWIL (recorded): 800-472-0391

<http://www.weather.gov/juneau>

[juneau.weather@noaa.gov](mailto:juneau.weather@noaa.gov)



## Why Spotters are So Important

Southeast Alaska presents a unique problem for those who collect weather data. There are large expanses throughout our state beyond the reach of weather radar and are void of any established weather stations.

This is where volunteer spotters come in...

Volunteer weather spotters help fill in these gaps and provide “ground truth” that may be



the difference between whether the National Weather Service issues a Watch or a Warning in your area. Your spotter

reports can save the lives and property nearest and dearest to you, which is a mission shared by the National Weather Service.

Spotters also report any damage that may have occurred in their area during and after an event. These damage reports improve the timeliness and accuracy of future watches and warnings by providing forecasters with a real world case reference.

## What Do Spotters Report?

Spotters in Southeast Alaska help the National Weather Service by reporting “significant” weather at their location. Significant Alaskan weather includes:

- Winds 40 mph or greater
- Any weather related damage
- Any freezing precipitation
- Blizzard conditions or heavy snowfall
- Funnel clouds, waterspouts, or strong dust devils
- Thunderstorms, heavy rainfall, or hail
- Coastal flooding
- Rising rivers or streams about to reach their banks
- Flooding of rivers due to sustained periods of heavy rainfall, rapid snowmelt, or ice jamming
- Land or mudslides
- Unattended fires or heavy smoke
- Dense fog
- Any other weather conditions that are described as “significant” for your area during your spotter training session.

## When Are Spotters Needed?

The National Weather Service Office is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. We need spotters to report any extreme or unusual events every time they occur. A daily commitment is not required - since Watches, Warnings, and Advisories are event driven, so is a spotter’s service.

## Who Can Become A Spotter?

If you enjoy observing and talking about the weather or if your job is affected by the weather...AND you have a reliable way to communicate to us what conditions are occurring in your area, then...

***YOU would make the perfect spotter!***



**Taku Winds in Juneau**