

# SKYWARN Q/A from Webinar

## General SKYWARN program Questions?

- Will there be certificates and hail cards issued with this training?
  - ✓ No, your spotter letter/number that you receive in your email will suffice that you have taken the training and are certified SKYWARN spotters. We will look into developing hail cards that you may download. Stay tuned.
- When will we get our spotter numbers?
  - ✓ Given the huge audience during the webinar, it may take until the end of April or early May to process all the trained spotters. In the meantime, if you need to report severe weather you can call us and say you took the webinar on April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- How do “stay at home, quarantine” orders affect storm spotters?
  - ✓ Stay at home, means stay at home. Storm spotters can participate in the program from their homes.
- Do you prefer phone call vs. web page reports?
  - ✓ Ideally, phone call works best. However for historical or after the fact, then a report on the web is just fine.
- How do we determine what will be the biggest weather threat of the day?
  - ✓ Please see our weather story and hazardous weather outlook for the “threat of the day”
  - ✓ <https://www.weather.gov/bou/weatherstory>
  - ✓ <https://forecast.weather.gov/wwamap/wwatxtget.php?cwa=bou&wwa=hazardous%20weather%20outlook>
- Can you recommend a backyard weather station?
  - ✓ There are many brands to choose from, but all depends on how much money you would like to spend. Can be \$50 all the way to \$1000 or more. Up to you.
- Is it ok for a couple/family to share the same spotter number or do we need separate numbers?
  - ✓ Yes, you can share the same number.
- If our dog at our spotter letter/# is there a way to retrieve it?
  - ✓ Please email [scott.entrekin@noaa.gov](mailto:scott.entrekin@noaa.gov) to retrieve it.
- CoCoRaHs reporting vs NWS?
  - ✓ For real time reports, please use the NWS severe weather line. CoCoRaHs is great for daily climatology for rain and snow reports and we use these on a regular basis.
- Are SKYWARN classes available to anyone?
  - ✓ Yes, however only 18 years of older can become a certified SKYWARN spotter. We do invite children to help the process with their parent or guardian.
- Will this presentation be available on-line?
  - ✓ Yes, please visit the following links for the recorded webinars.
  - ✓ [https://www.weather.gov/bou/spot\\_training](https://www.weather.gov/bou/spot_training)

## Reporting Procedures?

- I would like further information on sending reports online and how to navigate the weather.gov/bou website.
  - ✓ A recorded webinar on can be viewed for information on sending reports online and how to navigate the website.
  - ✓ <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/6506021813877293067>
- How do I report severe weather if I am in another state or outside of the Boulder/Denver boundaries?
  - ✓ You can always call 911 dispatch to report severe weather. They will relay your report to the local NWS office.
- Is there a preferred format for reporting our specific location?
  - ✓ Either specific address or if you are on the road a lat/long, mile markers, cross intersections will also work.
- We were told to report wall clouds, should I also report shelf clouds?
  - ✓ No, shelf clouds on their own are not severe but may be an indication of the downdraft and potential for damaging winds.
- Rainfall reporting? Do we need to wait for a whole hour before reporting?
  - ✓ No, sometimes heavy rain in Colorado occurs rather quickly and maybe as short as 10 to 15 minutes.

**Amateur Radio Operators**-For all the questions below, please visit the Colorado ARES webpage for specific information. <https://coloradoares.org/>

- What are the Amateur radio frequencies?
- Will there be any Amateur radio classes offered?
- Does NWS monitor specific ham frequencies?
  - ✓ Yes, we can monitor the frequencies during severe weather.

## Weather Safety/general weather questions

- Doesn't a ditch or culvert put you in danger of drowning from heavy rain?
  - ✓ It may, as a ditches may fill up with water. Again each situation may be different and is up to personal discretion. There is no safe place outdoors from a tornado.
- Are there issues with weather reporting vs lack of airplane traffic?
  - ✓ Not that we are aware of. There are still enough plains in the air and other sources for upper air data.
- Are there different modes of the radar for radar estimations?
  - ✓ Yes, we can place the radar in a variety of modes; winter vs. summer, and tropical settings for potential for heavy rain.