



Weather Spotter Information



The National Weather Service in Alaska is looking for volunteer weather spotters.

Volunteer spotters support their local community and government by providing the NWS with timely and accurate weather reports. These reports, when integrated with NWS Doppler Radar signatures, satellite, and other data, can be critical in the issuance of weather warnings and advisories. This can save lives and protect property, the primary mission of the NWS.

Volunteers help the NWS by reporting thunderstorms, hail, heavy rainfall, strong winds, heavy snow, freezing rain, flooding, and other severe weather conditions. It must be stressed that we are looking for reliable and objective reports. When snowfall reports are inflated or hail sizes are exaggerated, for example, it can do more harm than good. It is imperative that volunteers are available to receive a call from the NWS, in the event we feel that something suspicious is happening in their area or to ask further questions on a report already provided to us.

In order to become an official NWS spotter, volunteers must attend a training session conducted by the NWS. This slide and video presentation lasts approximately 2 hours, and covers how to identify and report significant weather. NWS spotters can also view an online PowerPoint presentation and take a quiz to become certified.

If you have questions about the spotter program, or would like to inquire about training sessions, please provide your contact information, or contact the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at your local forecast office:

Anchorage Weather Forecast Office: (907) 266-5117

Juneau Weather Forecast Office: (907) 790-6803

Fairbanks Weather Forecast Office: (907) 458-3700