



## MASON COUNTY VOLUNTEER WEATHER SPOTTERS

Mason County relies on community volunteers, non-profit, and faith-based organizations before, during, and after times of disaster. SKYWARN is a volunteer program that trains community members to be severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to Mason County Division of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service (NWS).

Although SKYWARN spotters provide essential information for all types of weather hazards, the main responsibility of a SKYWARN spotter is to identify and describe severe local storms. The information provided by SKYWARN spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

ANYONE IN MASON COUNTY WITH AN INTEREST IN PUBLIC SERVICE AND IN SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTING.

Every year the local NWS conducts SKYWARN spotter training sessions. There is no charge and a typical class takes about 2 hours to conduct. To find out when a SKYWARN spotter class will be conducted in the local area, please contact the Seattle NWS at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/skywarn/>

Training classes cover:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

SKYWARN weather spotters are part of the ranks of citizens who form the County's first line of defense against severe weather. There can be no finer reward than to know that their efforts have given communities the precious gift of time—seconds and minutes that can help save lives.