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## BERRIEN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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### DIVISION OF BERRIEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**JON HINKELMAN**  
CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**L. PAUL BAILEY**  
SHERIFF

**CAPT. ROCKEY ADAMS**  
COORDINATOR

## Press Release For Immediate Release

**Date:** 03/10/2017  
**RE:** Free Skywarn® Storm Spotter Training being offered in Berrien County  
**Media**  
**Contact:** Capt. Rockey Adams (269) 983-7111 x4916 or [radams1@berriencounty.org](mailto:radams1@berriencounty.org)

The Berrien County Office of Emergency Management is pleased to announce Skywarn® Storm Spotter Training, delivered in partnership with the National Weather Service, Northern Indiana Office.

**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017

**Time:** 6:00pm – 9:00 pm (Check in and doors open at 5:30pm)

**Cost:** Free – Open to entire public

**Location:** Andrew's University–Chan Shun Hall, 4185 E. Campus Circle Dr Berrien Springs, MI

**Registration link:** <http://berrienMISpotter.eventzilla.net>

**Pre-Register** Required. If assistance is needed, please call Ms. Gayle Bassett 269.983.7111 x4915 or email [gbassett@berriencounty.org](mailto:gbassett@berriencounty.org)

"This free training opportunity is an excellent way for citizens to learn about severe weather threats and help prepare them to react to severe weather, and parts of Berrien County have already seen severe weather early this year" said Capt. Rockey Adams of the Berrien County Emergency Management Office. "Spotters will also learn how to contact the NWS Northern Indiana Office, to give specific information about storm conditions. This information is used to warn others in the community of these threats," Capt. Adams added.

The effects of severe weather are felt every year by many Americans. To obtain critical weather information, NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. 101 spotters were trained in Berrien County in 2015; 95 in 2016. 90 are currently registered this year and plenty of spots are still open.

Although SKYWARN® spotters provide essential information for all types of weather hazards, the main responsibility of a SKYWARN® spotter is to safely identify and describe severe local storms. Since the program started in the 1970s, 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.

For more information on the National Skywarn® program, visit: <http://skywarn.org/> also, visit [www.bcsheriff.org](http://www.bcsheriff.org)

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