

 <p>Good Life. Great Strength.</p>		Policy Topic: Storm Spotter Credentialing	Document #: POL-04-208
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Supersedes: <i># of doc replaced or "new"</i> 6154		Reference(s): <i>related statutes, policy, rules & regs, etc.</i>	Related SOP(s):

I. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to establish and sustain a program for training, identification and credentialing of storm spotters in the State of Nebraska.

II. AUTHORITY

A. Nebraska Emergency Management Act Section §81-829.67(1)(2)

1. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency shall develop training, identification, and credentialing standards for storm spotter or emergency management worker.
2. For purposes of this section, storm spotter means an individual who performs severe weather storm spotting services as an employee or a volunteer of a local Emergency Management Organization and who has been credentialed by that Emergency Management Organization under this section.

B. Nebraska Emergency Management Act Section §81-829.39

Emergency Management worker includes any full time or part-time paid, volunteer, or auxiliary employee of this state or other states, territories' or possessions of the federal government or any neighboring country or of any political subdivision thereof, of the District of Columbia, or agency or organization performing emergency management services at any place in this state subject to order or control of or pursuant to a request of the state government or any political subdivision thereof and also includes instructors and students in emergency management educational programs approved by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency or otherwise under the provisions of the Nebraska Emergency Management Act.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Required Training: An individual who performs storm spotting services as an employee or a volunteer of a local emergency management agency and who wants to be credentialed by that Local Emergency Management Agency must have completed the following coursework:

1. On-line courses found at http://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23
 - a. Role of Skywarn Spotters
 - b. Skywarn Spotter Convective Basics
2. Attend a Weather Spotting Class provided by a National Weather Service (NNWS) Warning Coordination Meteorologist.
3. Pass a knowledge assessment established by the NWS warning Coordination Meteorologist and administered by a county or regional Emergency Management Agency.

B. Credentialing Procedure

1. The individual seeking to be credentialed as a storm spotter under a local emergency management program, shall apply to their local Emergency Manager (EM).
2. The application shall include a copy of certificates for required training courses.
3. The local EM will award Certification as a Weather Spotter based on the completion of the required training and passing the NWS knowledge assessment.
 - a. The Local Emergency Manager will issue an Identification / Credential Card (IDCC) containing the following information: Name, Position as a Certified Storm Spotter, issue date, expiration date (3 years from date of issue). This card will include all of the information as defined in POL-04-205.
 - b. The local EM shall keep a certificate on file for each Certified Weather Spotter that includes the photo and a copy of all required training certificates.

C. Storm Spotter Credentials shall be issued for a period of three years. To renew the credentials the local EM shall:

1. Ensure the individual has attended a Weather Spotter Class provided by a NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist and passed the knowledge assessment during the last year of their previous certification, or taken a Weather Spotter Class provided by a NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist and passed the knowledge assessment for at least two of the three year of their certification.
2. Keep in the individual's file the most current picture and additional updated training certifications.
3. Reissue the new storm spotter credentials in the form of an Identification / Credential Card (IDCC) to that individual.

D. Should an individual not renew their credentials for storm spotting, it is the responsibility of the local EM to retrieve and destroy the expired badge and keep the file as inactive for at least three years.