

Example of State Partnered SKYWARN Weather Spotter Training Policy

Nebraska Revised Statute

81-829.67. Storm spotter or emergency management worker; training, identification, and credentialing.

(1) The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency shall develop training, identification, and credentialing standards for a storm spotter or emergency management worker.

(2) For purposes of this section, storm spotter means an individual who performs weather spotting services as an employee or a volunteer of a local emergency management organization and who has been credentialed by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency under this section.



NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Topic: Storm Spotting Credentialing Policy

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 §81-829.76(1)(2)

1. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency shall develop training, identification, and credentialing standards for a storm spotter or an emergency management worker.

2. For purposes of this section, “storm spotter” means an individual who performs weather spotting services as an employee or a volunteer of a local emergency management organization, and who has been credentialed by the Nebraska emergency Management Agency 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 an agency or an 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 (NEMA) or otherwise under the provisions of the Emergency Management Act.

III. PROCEDURE

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

1. On-line courses found at 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 (NWS) Warning Coordination Meteorologist.
3. Pass a knowledge assessment established by an 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 the Certification as a Weather Spotter after the individual completes the required training and passes the NWS knowledge assessment.
 1. The local EM shall take a digital photograph of the individual to send to NEMA, along with a copy of training certificates, and a cover letter on agency letterhead identifying the certified spotter.
 2. The local EM shall keep a certificate on file for each Certified Weather Spotter that includes the photograph and a copy of all required training certificates.
 3. NEMA Training and Exercise staff shall review the individual's packet for completeness, and if complete, issue the storm spotter credentials in the form of an identity badge and certificate to the local EM for delivery to the individual.

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 an NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist, and passed the knowledge assessment during the last year of their previous certification; or has 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 training certifications.
3. Take and submit a new digital picture of the individual, along with updated required training certificates to NEMA. NEMA Training and Exercise staff shall review the individual's packet for completeness, and if complete, issue the new storm spotter credentials in the form of an identity badge and certificate to the local EM for delivery to the 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.