



**Shelby County Office of Preparedness
Homeland Security / Emergency Management Agency**

Director Dale Lane

1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134, 901.222.6700, www.staysafeshelby.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 5, 2014

Office of Preparedness Thanks SKYWARN “Spotters”



Photo Caption: Jim Branda, NWS meteorologist, presented SKYWARN training at the Shelby County Emergency Operations Center in 2014

Tomorrow, December 6th, is SKYWARN Recognition Day. SKYWARN is a community outreach program of the National Weather Service (NWS). SKYWARN volunteers work closely with the NWS and the Shelby County Office of Preparedness during severe weather events.

"We appreciate those who volunteer in the SKYWARN program. They provide much needed support to the National Weather Service and to our agency," said Dale Lane, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness.

SKYWARN volunteers have special training from the NWS. They report weather conditions and damage during severe thunderstorms, funnel clouds, hail, winds, sleet, snow and flash floods.

The SKYWARN program, created by the NWS in the 1970's, complements NWS Doppler radar and weather satellites. Volunteer storm spotter reports can ultimately save lives during severe weather.

Citizens are welcome to become a SKYWARN volunteer – anyone can join. The National Weather Service in Memphis suggests viewing the “on line” class until the 2015 class schedule is ready. Visit YouTube: “On Line SKYWARN Storm Spotter Training – Memphis, TN.”

For SKYWARN licensed ham radio operators, the Office of Preparedness invites you to “check in” to the SCOPERNET, Mondays, at 6:00 p.m., 147.09 repeater, +600 offset (if needed), in tone code 107.2.

For more information about SKYWARN, call the NWS at 901.544.0399 or the Office of Preparedness at 901.222.6700, or visit: www.weather.gov or www.arrrl.org.

(End of Release)