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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Citizens Prepare for Storm Spotting Season

“Preparing for spring weather has to start sooner rather than later.”

More than fifty people from the region answered the call and went to a Storm Spotting seminar at the Southeastern Illinois College at the behest of SCEMA director Allan C. Ninness and GCEMA director Steve Galt. Citizens from Gallatin, Hardin, Johnson, Pope, and Saline counties attended a two hour class dedicated to the craft of spotting storm formation and other elements of violent weather.

Attending the class enables these people to volunteer as certified storm spotters for the National Weather Service. This is a crucial piece of the puzzle for predicting weather developments and determining the paths of dangerous storms and cells. Storm spotters can help give communities extra warning when bad weather moves in the area.

“An excellent class for anybody wanting to learn more about severe weather or who are interested in becoming a weather spotter.” Said SCEMA volunteer William T. Karns.

“The presentation from the National Weather Service was both informative and entertaining. It kept me focused the whole time.” Added SCEMA Administrative Assistant Mark Mathews.

Some welcome news from this was the participation of Ameren employees. Ameren has been working with local EMAs in better preparing for disasters and their responses.

Free to the public, SCEMA director Allan C. Ninness is looking forward to the participants from this year’s class to help in storm spotting, but also towards next year’s class as well.



Attendees for the class.



Instructor Kelly Hooper



Another view of the audience.



From Left to Right: Debbie Hooper, Steve Galt, Kelly Hooper, and Allan C. Ninness



Hooper and his presentation