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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

**Date:** February 1, 2016  
**Contact:** Ted Martin, Fire Chief / Emergency Management Director, (417) 243-2790  
**Reference:** Emergency Managers to Host Severe Weather Training in Branson

Emergency Managers from Taney County including the Cities of Branson and Forsyth will be hosting a Severe Weather training seminar on Thursday, February 4 in the Performing Arts Center at the Forsyth Schools. The training will start at 6:30pm and is provided at no cost and is open to the public. The devastating effects of severe weather are felt by citizens across the nation every year. "This includes thunderstorms producing damaging winds or flash flooding, to the extreme of a tornado as experienced over the past years by Taney County residents, visitors and businesses. "Locally trained citizens trained as volunteer weather spotters are great partners with Emergency Managers and National Weather Service Meteorologist to provide more timely and accurate warnings to the public," stated Ted Martin, Branson's Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director.

Storm spotters are local citizens and emergency responders who essentially provide the first line of information reporting weather development as systems approach or pass over local communities. "Sometimes seconds count – and that early spotting of severe weather could save lives," stated Taney County Emergency Manager Chris Berndt. The three hour training program will be presented by a meteorologist from the Springfield National Weather Service. "This training will teach local citizens and emergency responders the basics of thunderstorm development, how to identify severe weather features including the development of storms that could produce tornadoes, how to report information, and basic weather safety," added Berndt.

"This is a great training opportunity for local homeowners, business owners, resort managers, property maintenance personnel, students, and the list goes on," added Martin. Those desiring to attend the training should park at the north side of the Forsyth Elementary building near the football field. For more information contact Branson Emergency Management at (417) 337-8584 or Taney County Emergency Management at (417) 546-7233.

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