



Skywarn™ Spotter Report Reference Sheet

National Weather Service, Cleveland, Ohio

What should I report?

- Tornado, funnel cloud, or wall cloud
- Large hail (0.5" or greater)
- Wind damage
- Winds measured/estimated at 50mph or greater
- Flooding
- Heavy rain (1" or more)
- Heavy snow (6" or more)
- Death or serious injury caused by the weather

When do I report?

Immediate, real-time reports, are most helpful for warning operations, but delayed reports are also important, even days after an event. Delayed reports are used for climatological and verification purposes.

Never compromise your safety just to give us a report. If you are in danger, move to a safe location and then provide your report.

How do I report?

Be sure to provide the location where the event occurred (nearest city, county, and state) and the time that the event occurred in your report. If you are unsure of what you are seeing, express your uncertainty in your report. You can relay your report to us by:

- Amateur Radio (Backbone 52.680)
- Telephone (1-800-262-9683)
- eSpotter website
(<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/StormReport/SubmitReport.php?site=CLE>)
- Facebook (US National Weather Service Cleveland OH)
- Twitter (NWS Cleveland, @NWSCLE)

Telephone: 1-800-262-9683

Web: www.weather.gov/cle

Tornadoes

Several atmospheric and man-made features may be mistaken for tornadoes or funnel clouds. Some of the most common are scud clouds, rain shafts, smoke, and communication towers. To distinguish between a real tornado or funnel and something else, study the feature and answer the following questions:

- Can I see it clearly?
- Is the feature attached to a thunderstorm base?
- Is the feature in the section of the storm where tornadoes/funnels typically develop (i.e., near the updraft)?
- Is there organized rotation present within the feature?
- If it appears to be a tornado, is there debris?



Please visit

<http://www.weather.gov/cle/Skywarn>
**for more valuable spotter information,
including a detailed field guide!**

Twitter: NWS Cleveland, @NWSCLE
Facebook: US National Weather Service Cleveland OH

Wind

Report estimated or measured wind speed and wind damage. Wind speed estimation is difficult. A detailed description of moving objects or damage is often more useful.

Details to submit for tree damage include:

- What is the height and diameter of the branch, limb or tree that was broken or blown down?
- Was the tree healthy or decayed?
- What type of tree was damaged, e.g., hardwood or softwood?

Details to submit for damage to structures.

- Is the damage to a well-built structure or a weak outbuilding?
- What is the main building material for the structure: wood, brick, metal, concrete, etc.?
- If the structure is a mobile home, was it anchored down?

| Wind Speed | Effects |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25-31 MPH | Large branches in motion |
| 32-38 MPH | Whole trees are in motion |
| 39-54 MPH | Twigs break off trees; wind impedes walking |
| 55-72 MPH | Damage to TV antennas; large branches break off trees |
| 72-112 MPH | Surfaces of roofs peeled off; windows broken; trailer homes overturned |
| 113+ MPH | Roofs blown from houses; weak buildings and trailer homes destroyed; large trees uprooted; train cars blown off tracks |



Hail

Report the size of the largest stone and any damage. To estimate size, compare hail to well known objects such as coins or balls, but not to marbles, or measure the hail with a ruler.

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Pea | 0.25" | Baseball | 2.75" |
| Penny | 0.75" | Large Apple | 3.00" |
| Nickel | 0.88" | Softball | 4.00" |
| Quarter | 1.00" | Grapefruit | 4.50" |
| Half Dollar | 1.25" | | |
| Ping Pong Ball | 1.50" | | |
| Golf Ball | 1.75" | | |
| Lime | 2.00" | | |
| Tennis Ball | 2.50" | | |



Flooding

Report flooded roadways, rivers and streams, giving the approximate water depth. Other details to submit include:

- Does the flooding consist of standing water or is it flowing?
- Is the water level continuing to rise, staying steady, or falling?
- Is the flooding occurring in a well known flood prone area?
- Do you see any damage from the flooding?

