Storm Spotter Reference Sheet

What to Report

- **Injuries/Fatalities**
- **Damage:**
  - Trees down (snapped or uprooted? diameter?)
  - Branches broken (diameter?)
  - Power poles down
  - Structural damage
- **Tornado** (rotation? debris?)
- **Funnel Cloud** (rotation?)
- **Wall Cloud** (rotation?)
- **Hail** (all sizes)
- **Wind Gusts** (40 mph or greater)
- **Heavy rain** (1" or more)
- **Unusual Water Issues:**
  - Floating/stalled cars
  - Water on roads (flowing? depth? trend?)
  - Unusual road closures
  - Flooded buildings
  - Mud or rock slides
  - Rapidly rising water

How to Report

Include:
- **Who** you are (spotter number?)
- **Where** you are
- **Where** the weather occurred
- **When** it occurred
- **What** was observed

Report through your local spotter network.
If the network is not active:

Contact NWS direct via:

Phone: **Provided in training class**

Web: **www.weather.gov/dvn** ("Submit Storm Report")

Ham Radio: WX1NWS

Share pictures via:
Facebook: NWSQuadCities
Twitter: @NWSQuadCities

Estimating Wind Speed (Beaufort Scale)

25-31 mph	Large branches in motion, whistling in power lines
32-38 mph	Whole trees in motion
39-54 mph	Twigs break off trees, wind impedes walking
55-72 mph	Damage to chimneys and antennas, shallow-rooted trees blown over
73-112 mph	Peels surface off roof, windows broken, trailer houses overturned
113+ mph	Roofs off houses, weak buildings and trailer houses destroyed, big trees uprooted

Helpful Internet Links

NWS Quad Cities	www.weather.gov/quadcities
NWS for Mobile Devices	mobile.weather.gov
Becoming a Storm Spotter	www.weather.gov/quadcities/spotters
Downloadable Spotter Guide	www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/SGJune6-11.pdf
Online Spotter Training Course	www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23
Online Radar Basics Course	www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=960
Radar (and Weather) Tutorials	www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream
CoCoRaHS Network	www.cocorahs.org
Iowa Environmental Mesonet	mesonet.agron.iastate.edu

Supercells: Step By Step

Step 1: Identify the updraft (and downdraft)
Step 2: Determine storm motion
Step 3: Make sure your location is safe
Step 4: Assess strength/potential
Step 5: Look for visible rotation in updraft
Step 6: { Watch downdraft for strong winds / hail
or watch updraft for rotating wall cloud / tornado
Step 7: Report critical information