National Weather Service Wilmington
SKYWARN Program

Spotter Information & Reporting Procedures

Reporting Severe Weather

Call: 1-800-697-3901
or
Send us your reports on Facebook & Twitter!

US National Weather Service Wilmington NC

@NWSWilmingtonNC

Only make your report when you can do so safely!

What to Report:
- Funnel cloud, Tornado, or Waterspout
- Winds over 40 mph, or wind damage
- Hail of any size
- Flooding (standing or flowing)
- Weather related injuries or fatalities
- Snow, Ice, or Fog making travel hazardous

When Making a Report:
- **WHO** you are: Spotter, Amateur Radio, name, etc
- **WHAT** you have seen
- **WHERE** the event is occurring
- **WHEN** the event happened
- **MOVEMENT** of tornado, waterspout, or funnel cloud (if possible)

Estimating Hail Size

Size	Object
¼ - ½ inch	Pea
¾ inch	Penny
1 inch	Quarter
1 ¼ inch	Half Dollar
1 ½ inch	Ping Pong
1 ¾ inch	Golf Ball
2 inch	Egg/Plume
2 ½ inch	Tennis Ball
2 ¾ inch	Baseball
3 inch	Softball
4 inch	Grapefruit

Estimating Wind Speeds

Speed	Observations
19-24 mph	Fresh wind, small trees sway
25-31 mph	Large branches sway, wires whistle
32-38 mph	Whole trees sway, walking tough
39-46 mph	Twigs and small branches break off
47-54 mph	Branches break, minor structural damage
55-63 mph	Large limbs break, trees uprooted, structural damage
64-74 mph	Widespread damage, trees snapped

Estimating Visibility
Car Odometer Method

1 – Choose target at visibility range
2 – Check odometer
3 – Drive to target, recheck odometer

Estimating Rain Intensity

Light: ≤ 0.1" per hour, individual drops seen

Moderate: 0.11 ≤ 0.3" per hour, individual drops not clearly seen, spray visible just above the pavement

Heavy: ≤ 0.3" per hour, falling in a torrent, heavy spray seen above the pavement

Flooding
Do not drive into flooded areas!

- Is the water up to the wheel cover, base of door, or over the hood on cars?
- Is the water over curbs, or into yards?
- Are roads closed or impassable?