



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, NOAA
PITTSBURGH, PA
SKYWARN INFORMATION SHEET



Report Severe Weather (Backup)	412-262-1988 / 877-633-6772 (General Public)
Weather Spotter Field Guide	http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/brochures/SGJune6-11.pdf
Email	PBZ-Skywarn@noaa.gov
NWS Pittsburgh	www.weather.gov/pittsburgh
Twitter	@NWSPittsburgh
Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/NWSPittsburgh
NOAA Weather Radio	www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr
Storm Prediction Center	www.spc.noaa.gov
NWS Online Weather School	www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream
River Flood Monitoring	www.weather.gov/ahps
CoCoRaHS	www.cocorahs.org
NWS Amateur Radio Frequency	147.09 MHz, Backup – 146.88 MHz

IMPORTANT WEATHER TO REPORT

When you report, please give your location (including your county) and the time of the observation. Try to report as soon as possible after observing the event and, *remember to be careful!* Please concentrate on the following phenomena:

- SNOWFALL** After 2 inches of new snow, and then at 4 inches, 6 inches, and every 3 inches thereafter (e.g., 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, etc.)
- FREEZING RAIN** As soon as you observe the occurrence of freezing rain or freezing drizzle, especially if it starts to collect on objects. Call again if the ice accumulation exceeds 1/4 inch.
- THUNDER SNOW** Location and time of occurrence
- WIND SPEEDS** Report wind speeds greater than 40 mph
- RAINFALL** Report when you receive one inch (and then at least every inch thereafter)
- FUNNEL CLOUD** A “rotating” appendage descending from the base of a cumulonimbus cloud, but not touching the ground. If possible, always look at the area beneath the funnel cloud for flying debris. If flying debris is observed, it is a tornado.
- TORNADO** Violently rotating column of air descending from a cumulonimbus cloud and touching the ground. Look for flying debris. If possible, report any injuries or fatalities
- HAIL** Report hail 0.75 or larger. Specify the diameter based on the hail scale (see other side)
- FLOODING** Report any flooding you observe, including basement, road, stream, creek, and ice jam flooding. Report the name of the stream/creek, road number/name (if applicable) and depth
- DAMAGE** Report all storm-related damage (large branches, fallen trees, structural damage, flood damage, etc.) Even if it is several days after the event.

DEWPOINT SCALE

Degrees “F”	50-55	55-60	60-65	65-70	>70
Thunderstorm chance	Poor	Fair	Moderate	Good	Excellent

HAIL	Pea	Plain M&M	Penny	Nickel	Quarter	Half Dollar
Scale	0.25 in	0.50 in	0.75 in	0.88 in	1.00 in	1.25 in
	Golf Ball	Baseball	Softball			
	1.75 in	2.75 in	4.00 in			

ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE

EF0	65-85 mph
EF1	86-110 mph
EF2	111-135 mph
EF3	136-165 mph
EF4	166-200 mph
EF5	>200 mph

ESTIMATED WIND SCALE

25-31 MPH.....Large branches in motion; whistling in telephone wires

32-38 MPH.....Entire trees in motion; slight difficulty walking against wind

39-54 MPH.....Twigs break off trees; wind generally impedes progress

55-72 MPH.....Damage to chimneys and TV antenna; large limbs/branches down

73-112 MPH.....Roof surfaces damaged; windows broken; light mobile homes moved or overturned;
moving vehicles pushed off road

113-157 MPH.....Roofs torn off; weak buildings and mobile homes destroyed

≥158 MPH.....Severe damage; cars lifted completely off ground

DEFINITIONS

Severe Thunderstorm A thunderstorm which produces hail to 1 inch in diameter or larger and/or wind gusts to 58 mph (50 kts) or greater

Watch Conditions are favorable for the weather event in or near the watch area

Warning The weather event is imminent or occurring in the warned area

Advisory The weather event will be an inconvenience. However, if caution is not exercised, it could become life-threatening (mostly during the winter months)

Flash Flood A flood caused by heavy rainfall in a short period of time, generally less than 6 hrs

Flood Inundation caused by heavy rain which generally takes greater than 6 hrs to occur

Tornado A violently rotating column of air which extends from a thunderstorm and it is in contact with the ground

Funnel Cloud A rotating, funnel-shaped cloud extending from the base of a thunderstorm and is not in contact with the ground

Downburst A strong downdraft with an outrush of damaging wind on or near the ground
Macroburst - swath of damaging wind more than 2.5 miles wide
Microburst - swath of damaging wind 2.5 miles wide or less

SKYWARN FAQs

-SKYWARN recertification - every 5 years

-SKYWARN Newsletter issued twice a year and is displayed on our website

-Your SKYWARN number will remain the same unless you are dropped from our database

-NWS Pittsburgh SKYWARN list group – http://groups.yahoo.com/group/skywarn_pittsburgh
