



National Weather Service Raleigh, NC SKYWARN Spotter Guide



Spotter ID numbers are no longer provided by NWS Raleigh, and are NOT required to report severe weather to the NWS Raleigh!

To register your class attendance (either in-person or for online training), and to be added to the NWS Raleigh database of SKYWARN spotters, please fill out the following online registration form:

<http://www.weather.gov/rah/RaleighSkywarnRegistration>

If you experience any trouble with the above form, please send an email message to Nicholas.Petro@noaa.gov

Call the NWS when you observe any of the following:

<p>Tornadoes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What damage did you observe? ● Do you know how long it was on the ground? ● Do you know when it started and ended? 	<p>Wall Clouds and Funnel Clouds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you think you see a rotating wall or funnel clouds, please report it to us. However, <u>MAKE SURE IT IS ROTATING BEFORE CALLING!</u>
<p>Flash Flooding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report flooded roadways, rivers and streams, giving approximate water depth. ● Are the flood waters standing or flowing? ● Is the flooding rising, staying steady or falling? ● Are cars stalled in flood waters? Any damage from the flooding or mud slides? 	<p>Winter Weather</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Once every 6 hours, please report how much snow or ice accumulation that you have received. ● At the end of the event, report storm total snow or ice accumulation. ● Report any damage that was caused by freezing rain and ice accumulation (ex: downed trees and power lines).
<p>Severe Thunderstorm Straight-line wind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report any wind damage (damage to structures, trees power poles/lines down, etc). ● If possible, report estimated or measured wind speed. ● Details to submit for tree damage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the height & diameter of the branch, limb or tree that was broken or blown down? ○ Was the tree healthy or decayed? ○ Was the tree snapped or uprooted? ● Details to submit for damage to structures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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? 	<p>Hail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At the end of the hail event when it's safe to go back outside, please report the size of the largest hail stone and any damage the hail may have caused. ● 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. (see hail estimate guide on the back of this page). <p>Tropical Storms or Hurricanes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During Storm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funnel Clouds and Tornadoes ○ Wind gusts over 50 mph ○ Wind damage ○ Flooding ● End of Storm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lowest pressure ○ Rainfall total ○ Highest wind gust ○ Damage / Flooding

Methods of reporting severe weather to the NWS Raleigh:

- NWS Raleigh severe weather hotline: **919-326-1040** (please note that the old 800 number is being phased out)
- Use our web-based reporting form available via <http://www.weather.gov/rah/submityourweatherreport>
Be sure to bookmark this link to the desktop of your PC or smartphone!
- *A picture is worth a thousand words!* Please email storm photos to: nws.raleigh@noaa.gov
- Social Media: Tweet storm reports and photos to @NWSRaleigh. Post storm reports and photos on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/NWSRaleigh.
- **mPing** spotter reporting smartphone app for Andriod & Iphone. Just search for “mPing” and download for free.
- For amateur radio operators in the Triangle region and Coastal Plain: Central Carolina SKYWARN net on the 145.210 Mhz repeater (82.5 Hz tone), and more info available on the Central Carolina SKYWARN Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/CentralCarolinaSKYWARN>
- For amateur radio operators in the Triad region: Triad SKYWARN on the 147.255 mhz K4ITL Asheboro repeater (t82.5), and more info available at <http://triadskywarn.blogspot.com>

Spotters should use the following guidelines when reporting:

- Remain calm, speak clearly, and do not exaggerate the facts.
- If you are unsure of what you are seeing, make your report, but also express your uncertainty.
- Immediate, real-time reports are most helpful for warning operations, but delayed reports are also important, even days after an event.
- Don't report something you didn't see yourself.
- Don't send in fake or false reports – that's illegal, and spotters who send us fake reports will be referred to law enforcement!
- Don't assume that your report will become a Local Storm Report or will result in a warning!
- Don't forget that we need your snow and ice reports during and after winter weather events.

Your report should contain the following information:

- WHO you are: trained spotter...give your name and best phone number to reach you back.
- WHAT you have witnessed: the specific weather event
- WHEN the event occurred: NOT when you make your report
- WHERE the event occurred...which may not necessarily be your present location. Use well known roads or landmarks when describing the location.

When reporting hail size, it is useful to reference common objects, such as:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| ● Pea 1/4" | ● Golf Ball 1 3/4" |
| ● Penny 3/4" | ● Lime 2" |
| ● Nickel 7/8" | ● Tennis Ball 2 1/2" |
| ● Quarter 1" | ● Baseball 2 3/4" |
| ● Half Dollar 1 1/4" | ● Softball 4" |
| ● Ping-Pong Ball 1 1/2" | |

Continuing SKYWARN Education:

- NWS Raleigh SKYWARN page: <http://www.weather.gov/rah/skywarn>
- Spotter Guide: https://www.weather.gov/media/bis/Weather_Spotter_Field_Guide.pdf
- COMET MedEd SKYWARN Training: https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23
- Rainfall reporting program: <http://www.cocorahs.org>
- Spotter Network: <https://www.spotternetwork.org>

SKYWARN Training Certificate:

- If you would like to obtain a certificate for attending SKYWARN training, you can download and customize one for yourself via the following link:
 - <https://weather.gov/media/rah/skywarn/certificate.pdf>
 - The password is: skywarn