Severe Weather Spotter Training 2022

National Weather Service Wakefield, Virginia

Severe Weather Spotter Line: 1-800-737-8624

NWS Wakefield Webpage: weather.gov/akq

@NWSWakefieldVA  NWSWakefieldVA
What Will Be Covered Today...

• Importance of Spotters

• Types of Severe Weather
  ▪ Thunderstorm Formation
  ▪ Straight-Line Winds
  ▪ Hail
  ▪ Flash Flooding
  ▪ Wall Clouds/Funnel Clouds/Tornadoes

• Reporting Procedures

• Spotter Safety

• Interactive Quiz
Who Are NWS Storm Spotters?

- Volunteers who report real-time severe weather reports to NWS
- Spotter information is crucial for the NWS to issue timely, accurate warnings
- Spotters can and do keep our communities safe during hazardous weather!
Why WE need YOU!

Why Spotters Are Needed

What we see: 

What you see:

• The ONLY way for us to know is to get ground truth from spotter reports!

• Real-time verification adds credibility, enhances public response, and improves warning accuracy.
NWS Radar – Operations

- National Weather Service
  WSR-88D Radar
NWS Doppler radar enables us to estimate:

- **Reflectivity** (amount or strength of the signal)
- **Velocity** (direction in which the air is moving)

However, there are some significant limitations...
Near the radar, the beam is lower to the ground and "sees" low in the storms.

As distance increases, the beam's altitude also increases and can overshoot the core of heavier precipitation.

Radar beam

Radar beam cannot see the lower portion of storm B. Resolution is poor at distances far from the radar.
Spotters + NWS = Saved Lives!
Hazardous Product Definitions

- Weather.gov/Wakefield
- Always keep up with the latest forecasts, statements, and warnings...
  - For safety
  - For spotting
  - For awareness

What are some ways we provide this information?
Severe Weather Preparedness

Outlook
Check your action plan
Shelter ready

NWS Hazardous Weather Outlooks
NWS Storm Prediction Center Outlooks

Watch
Monitor conditions
Check latest forecasts

Severe Thunderstorm Watch
Tornado Watch
Flash Flood Watch
Flood Watch

Advisory or Warning
Take Shelter

Severe Thunderstorm Warning
Tornado Warning
Flood Warning
Flash Flood Warning

Save Lives
Together we can save lives and operate safely.

“Get Ready”

“Get Set”

“Go!”
Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Outlook Categories

**Overview**
- Showers and thunderstorms are expected to produce 1 to 3 inches of rain across portions of southeast Virginia and northeast North Carolina (with locally higher amounts) today into Friday.
- Damaging wind gusts and potentially a weak tornado are possible with the strongest storms.
- There may be instances of flooding, especially in urban/poor drainage areas.

**Timing**
- For Severe Weather: This afternoon into tonight.
- For Heavy Rainfall/Flooding: Through Friday morning.

**Hazards & Impacts**
- Strong wind gusts from thunderstorms could result in downed trees/power outages. A weak tornado or two also cannot be ruled out.
- Heavy rainfall could result in flooding of urban and poor drainage areas. Flooding of rivers, small streams, and ditches is also possible. A Flash Flood Watch is in effect for portions of SEVA and NE NC.

**Additional Information**
- Remain weather aware today and monitor the latest forecasts, watches, and warnings from the National Weather Service.

**Forecast Rainfall through Friday Night**

*Remember—Severe weather is a possibility.*

No Matter the Forecast:
- Keep a watch on the weather.
- Ensure multiple sources of weather information.
- Have a plan, be prepared.
- Be Weather Ready.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>MRGL</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slight</td>
<td>SLGT</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced</td>
<td>ENH</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>MDT</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hazardous Weather Outlook

- Discusses potential for hazardous weather within the next week (especially the first 24 hours)
- Issued at least once a day
- Updated more frequently during significant weather

This Hazardous Weather Outlook is for central Virginia, east central Virginia, south central Virginia and southeast Virginia.

.DAY ONE...Today and Tonight.

Isolated thunderstorms will be possible along and south of a Farmville to Wakefield line this afternoon through early this evening. Damaging wind gusts and large hail are the primary hazards in any thunderstorm.

.DAY TWO THROUGH SEVEN...Sunday through Friday.

A frontal boundary will become nearly stationary across North Carolina Sunday and Sunday night. Meanwhile, low pressure will track east along the frontal boundary from the Mid-South toward the Carolinas. This will result in periods of locally heavy rain across the region from Sunday through Monday.

.SPOTTER INFORMATION STATEMENT...

Spotter activation may be needed this afternoon...and rainfall reports are welcome through the weekend.

$$
Severe Thunderstorm Definition

Severe Thunderstorm - A storm which produces:

- $\geq 1''$ hail - and / or -
- $\geq 58$ mph gusts
Watch

• Conditions are favorable for hazardous weather in and near the watch area

• Issued by the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) in Norman, OK

Severe Thunderstorm Watch

Valid Until
10:00 PM EDT Wednesday
June 5, 2019

Threat Information

HAIL
Scattered Hail Up To Lime Size Possible

WIND
Scattered Gusts Up To 70 MPH Possible

LIGHTNING
Frequent Lightning Possible

Potential Exposure

Population: 9,706,612
Schools: 2083
Hospitals: 115
• Expected weather event is imminent or occurring
• Warning polygons are based on area of highest threat

Tornado emergency may be issued in exceedingly rare instances!
Special Weather Statement (SPS)

- Issued for strong thunderstorms that may strengthen to severe levels
- Also used for other types of significant weather that do not require a warning (i.e. small hail, wind gusts of 30 to 40 MPH, and/or frequent lightning)

...A LINE OF STRONG THUNDERSTORMS WILL AFFECT THE RICHMOND METRO AREA THROUGH 615 PM EDT...

WIND GUSTS TO 40 MPH AND SMALL HAIL ARE POSSIBLE WITH THESE STORMS. FREQUENT LIGHTNING IS ALSO EXPECTED WITH THIS LINE OF STORMS.
How do YOU receive Warnings?

- Multiple ways of receiving warnings is ideal!
- Think about how you would receive a warning at...
  - Home (including while you’re asleep)?
  - In your car?
  - Sports practice?
  - Work?
**Wireless Emergency Alerts**

- Emergency messages sent by authorized government alerting authorities to your mobile device.
- Alerts can be sent to your mobile device without needing to download an app or subscribe to a service.

**Alert Types Include:**
- Extreme weather warnings
- Local emergencies requiring evacuation or immediate action
- AMBER Alerts
- Presidential alerts during a National emergency

[https://www.ready.gov/alerts](https://www.ready.gov/alerts)
Thunderstorm Formation

When air is heated, it becomes lighter and rises.

If enough moisture is present, this updraft can develop into a towering cumulus cloud.

A source of lift often acts to kick-start updraft and thunderstorm development. (Front, Sea Breeze, etc.)
Mature Thunderstorm

- A fully developed thunderstorm will have a distinct **updraft** and **downdraft**.
Importance of Wind Shear

- For a thunderstorm to survive, *wind shear* is needed to keep the updraft and downdraft separate.
- Can be described in terms of speed and direction
Importance of Wind Shear

- For a thunderstorm to survive, wind shear is needed to keep the updraft and downdraft separate.
- Otherwise the storm collapses on itself and dies!
Types of Thunderstorms

- Multi-cell
- Supercell
- Single cell
- Squall Line
Primary threat is damaging winds

Often accompanied by a shelf cloud
Strong winds often accompany the passage of a shelf cloud.
Squall Line and Gust Front

Shelf cloud forms with strong winds and rain-cooled air following closely behind.
Supercell Thunderstorms

February 25, 2017
Supercell Thunderstorms

Supercell thunderstorms are most likely to produce severe weather.
Thunderstorm Anvil, Overshooting Top

Anvil

Overshooting Top
Tornado usually occurs near the “weak echo region.”

Where in relation to storm is the safest/best place to spot?
Stronger updraft → Bigger hail
Dangers of Hail

Hail can damage vehicles, crops, and structures and can also lead to hazardous driving conditions.
Rotating Updrafts Can Produce Very Large Hail!

Diameter: 8.0 inches
Circumference: 18.625 inches
Weight: 1.9375 pounds

Vivian, SD
July 23, 2010
Dangers of Hail

Hail is also dangerous to humans!
Damaging Wind
Straight Line Wind

- Refers to damaging wind not directly associated with tornadic circulation
- Result of the **outflow** from a thunderstorm, due to:
  - Downbursts
  - Squall Lines (gust fronts)
Downburst (Microburst)

- Area of strong winds produced within downdraft of a thunderstorm
- Typically affect small areas (usually < 5 miles in diameter)
- Can have wind speeds of 50 to 100 MPH
The precipitation core (rain and hail) is displaced from the updraft and crashes to the ground.
Downburst Damage
Squall Line Winds

- Squall lines move quickly and can produce damaging winds over a very large area.
- If gust front advances too far ahead of storms, winds will gradually weaken.
- Bow echo: area of enhanced winds, more significant damage
Derecho

- Long-lived, organized thunderstorm complex with a damage swath ≥ 240 miles
- Forms in unusually warm, moist air mass
- Widespread wind damage

[Image of cross sections and radar depiction from June 29, 2012]
Brief Review...

Which of the following is not true of radar?

A. Usually can’t detect what’s happening near the ground
B. Resolution decreases with distance
C. NWS relies solely on radar data when deciding to issue a warning
D. Doppler radar can provide estimate of wind speeds inside thunderstorms

**ANSWER: C**

(That’s why we’re all here today!)
The most severe and dangerous type of flooding!

- **Rapid rise** of water onto dry areas
- Rushing water over roads, impacting travel
- Water entering main levels of homes and businesses
- Dam breaks

*The force of a flash flood can move cars or even houses!*
Flash Flooding

• In very rare cases, the NWS can issue a **Flash Flood Emergency**

• This would only be used in situations with an extremely high risk to life and property.

On Sunday May 27, 2018, A series of thunderstorms produced over 9” of rain in 2 hours over northeast MD!
A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is **happening** or will happen soon. Some roads will be **flooded**.

**Move** to higher ground.

**Never drive** through flooded roads.

**take action.**

A Flood Watch is issued when flooding is possible.

Stay tuned to radio/TV, follow [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) and be ready to seek higher ground.

Learn more at [weather.gov/flood](http://weather.gov/flood).

**be prepared.**
Urban/Small Stream Flooding

- May require Flood Advisory
  - **Standing water on road** / streams out of banks
  - ‘Typical’ flooding of underpasses or flood-prone areas
- Not usually life-threatening
3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR FLASH FLOOD SAFETY

1. GET TO HIGHER GROUND
   Get out of the areas subject to flooding

2. DO NOT DRIVE INTO WATER
   Do NOT drive or walk into flooded areas. It only takes 6” of water to knock you off your feet.

3. STAY INFORMED
   Monitor local radar, television, weather radio, internet or social media for updates.

During a flood, water levels and the rate at which the water is flowing can quickly change. Remain aware and monitor local radio and television.

weather.gov/flood
Thunderstorm-Related Hazards / Safety

**Understanding SEVERE WEATHER HAZARDS**

- **TORNADO**
  - ACTION: Take shelter immediately in a sturdy structure

- **HAIL**
  - ACTION: Move indoors away from windows

- **LIGHTNING**
  - ACTION: Move indoors if you hear thunder

- **WIND**
  - ACTION: Move indoors away from windows

- **FLOODING**
  - ACTION: Avoid rising creeks and water-covered roads

10 Minute Break
## Enhanced Fujita Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Winds</th>
<th>Damage</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EF0</td>
<td>Up to 85 mph</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td><img src="example1.jpg" alt="EF0 damage example" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF1</td>
<td>86-110 mph</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td><img src="example2.jpg" alt="EF1 damage example" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF2</td>
<td>111-135 mph</td>
<td>Considerable</td>
<td><img src="example3.jpg" alt="EF2 damage example" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Enhanced Fujita Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Winds</th>
<th>Damage</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EF3</strong></td>
<td>136-165 mph</td>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>![EF3 Example Images]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EF4</strong></td>
<td>166-200 mph</td>
<td>Extreme</td>
<td>![EF4 Example Images]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EF5</strong></td>
<td>&gt; 200 mph</td>
<td>Incredible</td>
<td>![EF5 Example Images]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What Is A Wall Cloud?

• Isolated lowering of cloud base, usually at base of updraft

• Updraft ingests rain-cooled air, which condenses into cloud pointing toward rain

• Rotating wall cloud implies a rotating updraft

• Updraft + rotation = watch for tornado!

Josh Weitzel
Palestine, OH
August 2009
The wall cloud is the base of the updraft.
If the wall cloud is rotating, so is the updraft!
The wall cloud is the base of the updraft. If the wall cloud is rotating, so is the updraft!
Keys to Spotting Wall Clouds

- #1) Sustained Upward Motion
- #2) 

- Is the feature persistent?
- Is it attached to the storm base?
Keys to Spotting Wall Clouds

• #1) Sustained Upward Motion
• #2) Vertical Axis of Rotation
Shelf Clouds vs. Wall Clouds

**Shelf Clouds...**
- Slope *away from* precipitation
- Indicate downdraft/outflow

**Wall Clouds...**
- Slope *toward* precipitation
- Indicate updraft/inflow
Funnel Cloud

- Rotating funnel-shaped cloud extending downward from thunderstorm base (often from wall cloud)
- Always attached to cloud base
- Does not reach the ground
- Exhibits rapid rotation and may be **laminar** or **smooth** in appearance (Striations)
Tornado

- Rapidly rotating column of air in contact with cloud base and ground
- Not all have visible funnel clouds; look for dirt/debris swirling near ground
- Always exhibit rapid rotation if spotted from up close
Spotting Tornadoes

- Smoothed funnel appearance implies rotation
- Laminar feature is likely a funnel cloud or tornado
- Some tornadoes are extremely skinny or “rope” like
Spotting Tornadoes

- Some funnel clouds and tornadoes are more ragged.
- Always look for vertical motion and rotation!
Spotting Tornadoes

If a ragged cloud does not exhibit rotation and upward motion, it is not a funnel cloud or tornado!
Spotting Tornadoes

• **Rapid rotation** and **rapid upward motion** originating from the ground indicates a tornado!

• If rotation can’t be detected, look for rapid changes in shape.
Squall Lines and Tornadoes

- Squall line tornadoes are usually weak and short-lived, but in rare cases can be EF2-EF3.
- These tornadoes move very quickly, and are frequently rain-wrapped. Because of this, they are virtually impossible to spot.
Uncertainties When Spotting

What do you do when it’s not clear cut?

Report it!

??

Do not report it!

REPORT IT ANYWAY!

Better safe than sorry!
Reporting In Uncertain Situations

• Report what you see. Give specific details!
• Do not make assumptions!

“I see a POSSIBLE funnel cloud because…”

• Appendage attached to storm base
• Has lasted past 5 minutes
• Too far away to see movement or rotation
NWS Wakefield Operations

• Normally staffed by 2 to 4 meteorologists
• Can increase to more than 10 during severe weather
• We may only have a few people answering phones, so time may be of the essence!

Yes, we will offer tours!
Check out the local programs tab at weather.gov/Wakefield for more information!
Check our Youtube Channel!
How to Report – Logistics

• Start with the basics...
  - Identify yourself as a spotter (no ID to memorize!)
  - Your exact location
    - 5 miles west of City A
    - Near intersection of Route X and Road Y
    - Latitude and longitude coordinates appreciated but not required
    - If observing a cloud feature, in what direction are you looking?
  - Exact time of event
    - If ongoing or lengthy, provide start/end time
  - The weather event...
What to Report

• Hail (including size)
• Thunderstorm wind damage to trees, structures or measured wind gusts 40 mph or higher
• Tornadoes and/or waterspouts
• Flooding (roads impassable, hazardous; streams, creeks out of banks)
• Funnel clouds or wall clouds
• Storm damage from any of the above or from lightning
• Weather related injuries
• **Do not report lightning!**

*If you report something significant, we’ll want your contact info.*
What to Report - Hail

How to Report Hail Size

Don’t Compare Hail to Marbles!
Why? Not all Marbles are Alike in Size!

Good Examples of Comparison

Measure Hail With Common Objects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dime/Penny</td>
<td>0.75 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel</td>
<td>0.88 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter</td>
<td>1.00 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Dollar</td>
<td>1.25 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ping Pong Ball</td>
<td>1.50 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Ball</td>
<td>1.75 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hen Egg</td>
<td>2.00 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Ball</td>
<td>2.50 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>2.75 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea Cup</td>
<td>3.00 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grapefruit</td>
<td>4.00 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>4.50 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report largest stone size
What to Report - Wind

- Wind speed estimates can be difficult and are prone to error.
- Severe wind or Power Lines Down = damage!
- **Measured** wind speeds provide the most accurate information.
- Determining what kind of winds caused the damage can be tough!
- Just report the type(s) of wind damage that you observe.
# Reporting Wind Speed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wind Speed</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calm</td>
<td>Smoke rises vertically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3 MPH</td>
<td>Wind motion visible in smoke.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-7 MPH</td>
<td>Felt on skin. Leaves rustle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-12 MPH</td>
<td>Leaves/flags in constant motion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-18 MPH</td>
<td>Dust is raised. Small branches move.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-24 MPH</td>
<td>Small trees sway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-31 MPH</td>
<td>Large branches move. Whistling heard in wires.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32-38 MPH</td>
<td>Trees in motion. Some difficulty walking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39-46 MPH</td>
<td>Twigs broken. Cars veer on road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>47-54 MPH</strong></td>
<td>Light structural damage - shingles blown off roof.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>55-63 MPH</strong></td>
<td>Tree damage possible. Light structural damage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-73 MPH</td>
<td>Tree and structural damage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-95 MPH</td>
<td>Considerable/widespread tree and structural damage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reporting wind speeds can be tricky!*

*Use these physical clues to help you determine wind speed.*

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**Report!**

- **Time Of Event**
- **Location**
- **Speed**
- **Duration**
Methods for Reporting

★ Phone – 757-899-2415
   Severe Weather Reports Only

★ Amateur Radio

/NWSWakefieldVA

• Email – akq-report@noaa.gov
  - Use social media/email for pictures of damage, cloud features!
We Need To Hear From You!

- We don’t often “cold call” spotters for reports!
  - Issuing warnings takes precedence
  - Don't know your exact location at time of storm

Spotters + NWS = saved lives!
Amateur Radio

http://www.wx4akq.org/

• One-stop shop for all things SKYWARN & Amateur Radio
• Net Control frequencies and contact points
• Details on local training and policy
• Training Resources

SKYWARN desk at NWS Wakefield, Virginia
Photos and video can be sent to us via email: akq-report@noaa.gov

...or submitted to...

Maria Jaws
Virginia Beach, VA

Be sure to identify yourself as a trained spotter when posting on social media!

Kyle Greer
Hampton, VA

Jeff Burley
Chesterfield, VA
Spotter Safety

• There is no magical bubble that protects your location.

• Never put yourself or anyone else in harm’s way!

• Always know your position with regard to the storm.

• Do not try to spot at night.
Spotter Safety

• We do not recommend chasing.

• Seek shelter in a sturdy building away from windows.

• A basement provides the best protection.

• If a basement is not available, go to a small interior room on a building’s lowest level.
**TORNADOES AND ROAD SAFETY**

**WHAT TO DO**
Get off the road. The best option is to drive to a designated shelter, basement or safe room.

The next best option is a small, windowless room or hallway on the lowest floor of a sturdy building.

**WHAT NOT TO DO**
Do not seek refuge in a vehicle, outside or under an overpass. A highway overpass does not provide safety from a tornado.

DO NOT seek shelter under an overpass or a tree. This puts you at greater risk of being killed or seriously injured by flying debris from the powerful tornadic winds.
**Lightning**

**Do's and Don'ts**

**Do**
- Go Inside When You Hear Thunder or See Lightning!
- Find a Sturdy House, Building, Car With A Hard-Top Roof
- Stay Indoors For at Least 30 Minutes After You Last Hear Thunder

**Don't**
- Retreat to Dugouts, Sheds, Pavilions, Picnic Shelters or Other Small Structures
- Use or Touch Electronics, Outlets, or Corded Phones
- Go Under or Near Tall Trees, Swim or Be Near Water, Be Near Metal Objects or Windows

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**Camping Safety**

**PREPARING FOR WEATHER**

- KNOW YOUR WEATHER FORECAST
- NOTIFY FAMILY/FRIENDS OF YOUR PLANS
- HAVE AN EVACUATION PLAN, KNOW WHERE AND HOW FAST YOU CAN FIND SHELTER
- PACK A SAFETY KIT AND WEATHER RADIO

[weather.gov/lightning]
Lightning Safety
How should this be reported?

A. Tornado  
B. Straight-line winds  
C. Estimated 70 mph winds  
D. A few trees snapped  
E. Doesn’t need to be reported

ANSWER: D

(Just report what kind of damage you observe!)
SPOTTER QUIZ!

Examples for Spotter Identification
Flash Flooding
Small Hail...

If so... as what?
CoCoRaHS
(Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network)

- Rain, snow, and hail reports easily entered on the internet
- Data used both real time in warning events and afterwards to help improve forecasts and verification, and for research purposes

www.CoCoRaHS.org
Download the mPING App!
(Meteorological Phenomena Identification Near the Ground)

- Easily submit anonymous, real-time weather reports to NWS from any location with your mobile device!
- Precip type, flooding, hail, wind damage, etc.
- Reports plotted on interactive map available for anyone to view

mping.nssl.noaa.gov
Publications

• Full-page Wakefield Spotter Guide contains summary of all the important topics covered in tonight’s presentation

• Full-color Weather Spotter’s Field Guide available via our spotter web page:

weather.gov/akq/skywarn

Easy to download onto your smart phone!
Spotter Certificate

NWS Wakefield
SKYWARN™

Get Your Skywarn Certificate

Did you attend one of our training classes?
Enter your information below to receive your Spotter Certificate.

Note: We will NOT distribute this information outside our office.

First Name | Last Name

Class Attended
-- Select the Skywarn class you attended --

Submit  Reset

Skywarn Class Schedule

https://www.weather.gov/akq/SkywarnCertificate
Spotter Card

- Spotter cards are available online, if you so desire
- To create a card, click the link on our spotter webpage
- Remember the code and enter exactly the same:

2021Skywarn

weather.gov/akq/skywarn
Spotter *Do’s* and *Don’ts*

**DO**
- Brief yourself with the latest information
- Understand the importance of your report
- Keep safety your #1 priority
- Express uncertainties and detail in your report

**DON’T**
- Assume the NWS already knows what a storm is doing
- Put yourself in harm’s way
- Withhold a storm report because of uncertainty
- Forget to pat yourself on the back... We appreciate your help!
Thank You For Participating!

Remember...we need to hear from you!
Your service helps us save lives.

Follow Us On Social Media:

weather.gov/akq  mobile.weather.gov

NWSWakefieldVA  @NWSWakefieldVA