**Skywarn Spotter Reference Sheet**

**Register Here or QR Code below:** [**https://www.weather.gov/dvn/spotters#becomeaspotter**](https://www.weather.gov/dvn/spotters#becomeaspotter)

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| **What to Report** | | **How to Report** | |
| * **Injuries/Fatalities** * **Damage:**   + Trees down (snapped or uprooted? diameter?)   + Branches broken (diameter?)   + Power poles down   + Structural damage * **Tornado** (rotation like a spinning top? debris?) * **Funnel Cloud** (rotation like a spinning top?) * **Wall Cloud** (rotation like a spinning top?) * **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 * **Dense fog** (visibility ½ mile or less) * **Freezing Drizzle** or fog freezing on roads * **Strong non-thunderstorm winds** (40+ mph) * **Winter Hazards:**   + Blizzard (Visibility <1/4 mile for 3+ hours)   + Snow Squall (sharp drop in visibility w/ heavy snow, strong winds, icy roads)   + Freezing rain (estimate on branches and elevated surfaces)   + Precipitation types not in the forecast   + Road conditions | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Include: | * **Who** you are (spotter number?) * **Where** you are * **Where** the weather occurred * **When** it occurred * **What** was observed |   **Contact NWS direct via**:  Phone: **(800) 803-9357 *unlisted***  **Always call directly for tornado**  **and funnel cloud reports.**  Web: **www.weather.gov/dvn**  (“Submit a Storm Report” under Current Hazards tab)  **Share pictures via:**  Facebook: NWSQuadCities  Twitter: @NWSQuadCities  **Report through your local or county spotter network.** | |
| **Helpful Internet Links** | | |
| NWS Quad CitiesNWS for Mobile DevicesBecoming a Storm Spotter Downloadable Spotter Guide  Online Spotter Training Course  Online Radar Basics Course  CoCoRaHS Network  Iowa Environmental Mesonet | http://www.weather.gov/quadcities  [mobile.weather.gov](https://mobile.weather.gov)  http://www.weather.gov/quadcities/spotters  www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11(1).pdf www.meted.ucar.edu/training\_course.php?id=23  www.meted.ucar.edu/training\_module.php?id=960  [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org)  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

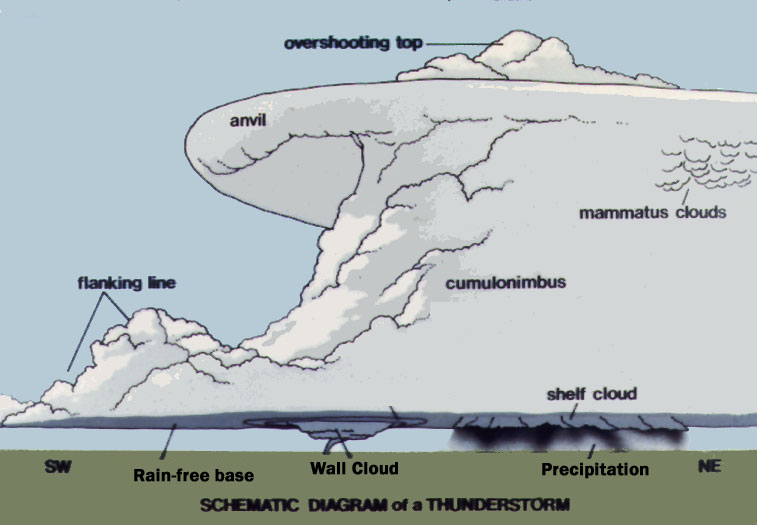
Step 5: Look for visible rotation in updraft

Watch downdraft for strong winds / hail

or watch updraft for rotating wall cloud / tornado

Step 7: Report critical information

Step 6:



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| 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 |