**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
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| Include: | * **Who** you are (spotter number?)
* **Where** you are
* **Where** the weather occurred
* **When** it occurred
* **What** was observed
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**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 SpotterDownloadable Spotter GuideOnline Spotter Training CourseOnline Radar Basics CourseCoCoRaHS NetworkIowa Environmental Mesonet | http://www.weather.gov/quadcities[mobile.weather.gov](https://mobile.weather.gov)http://www.weather.gov/quadcities/spotterswww.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11(1).pdfwww.meted.ucar.edu/training\_course.php?id=23www.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 lines32-38 mph Whole trees in motion39-54 mph Twigs break off trees, wind impedes walking55-72 mph Damage to chimneys and antennas, shallow-rooted trees blown over73-112 mph Peels surface off roof, windows broken, trailer houses overturned113+ mph Roofs off houses, weak buildings and trailer houses destroyed, big trees uprooted |