

## Eureka National Weather Service Spotter Program

### **What is the Spotter Program?**

Despite all the technological gains the Weather Service has acquired over the years, one aspect remains vital to our functioning, The Spotter Program. The Spotter Program is essentially comprised of people, such as yourself, who voluntarily report significant weather to our office and others across the country. These persons enable us to gain ground truth of significant weather events. Through the nation's entire spotter network, it is estimated that thousands of lives have been saved by timely and informative reports. Here in Northwest California we have spotters spread across Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties. If you are interested in becoming a spotter, please fill out our spotter form and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

### **What are Spotters Asked to Report?**

Weather Phenomena	Specifics
Tornadoes, Waterspouts or Funnels	Location, time, direction of movement. Is it still visible? Any damage?
Damaging winds	Briefly describe what was damaged and time and location it occurred. Estimate wind speed, if possible, using Beaufort scale
Hail	Pea-sized or greater. Can use coins for measurements (i.e. penny-size). Time it fell and any damage.
Heavy Rain	Half inch or more in 30 minutes. Location and time and any damage.
Flooding	Flooding of any kind. Near rivers and streams and possible dam failures. Is the river still rising or falling? Any damage or road closures
Poor visibility	Reduced to 1/4 mile or less due to dense fog, smoke, heavy rain, snow or volcanic ash. Is it hampering transportation?
Snow	Both during an event and storm total. When reporting snowfall, include the time period when it fell.
Dangerous Surf	Eroding beaches, large debris tossed by waves, damaged structures.
Lightning	Frequent cloud to cloud or cloud to ground. Any damage or injuries.
Earthquakes	Tremors of any intensity. Report any damage.

If you observe any of these, please call the NWS office at 707-443-6484

Tell us briefly: **What you saw** (waterspout, flooding, etc.); **where you saw it** (direction /distance from a known position); **when you saw it**; and **what was it doing** (moving, any damage).

If you have a spotter ID, give your **name** or **ID number** and **location** with each report.

### **TWITTER**

If you don't want to be part of the formal spotter program, and you have a Twitter account, you may also participate by tweeting to #wxreport.

If using geotagging, use the format.

Example: #wxreport 6.0" of new snow as of 1 pm

If geotagging is not available, use the following format:

#wxreport WW **your location** WW **your significant weather report**

Example: #wxreport WW 300 Startare Drive Eureka, CA 95501 WW pea size hail

### **FACEBOOK**

Coming soon will be the ability to post to our Facebook page.

Spotter Registration Form  
National Weather Service Eureka, California

NAME		
MAILING ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
LATITUDE/LONGITUDE (if known)		
PHONE		
EMAIL		
COUNTY		
ELEVATION		
DISTANCE/DIRECTION TO NEAREST TOWN (i.e. 12SW Orleans)		
EARLIEST TIME OF DAY WE CAN CALL		
LATEST TIME OF DAY WE CAN CALL		
Do you have a rain gauge?	Outdoor thermometer?	
Do you have an anemometer?		

Send completed form to: National Weather Service  
300 Startare Drive  
Eureka, CA 95501-6000

OR fax to: 707-443-6195

OR email to [carl.ashford@noaa.gov](mailto:carl.ashford@noaa.gov)