

A Spotters Quick Guide to Winter Weather

Follow www.weather.gov/gyx & read the Hazardous Weather Outlook for heads up events on the horizon

Step 1 - Activate when any Winter Weather Advisory, Blizzard, Snow Squall, Ice Storm or Winter Storm Warning is issued

Step 2 - What to report:

Snowfall / Sleet

- Measure three (3) different areas in an open field, stay away from trees & buildings
- Ideally, use a “snowboard” to get the most accurate measurement
- Take the average of the 3 measurements to account for drifting variability
- Snow and sleet should be measured to the nearest **tenth of an inch, try to view the ruler at eye level**
- If possible, measure snowfall every 6 hours, then clear your snowboard
- Take the final snowfall report as close to the end of the storm as possible
- Try to separate snowfall from sleet when possible, this can be difficult

Freezing Rain

- Any amount of freezing rain should be reported, even if it is only a trace
- Measure ice to the nearest **hundredth of an inch if possible, or to the nearest tenth**
- Vertical thickness is measured off an elevated flat surface (deck railing..etc)
- Radial thickness is measured off of something like a branch
 - Radial thickness is measured by measuring the thickness of ice on each side of a tree branch, and then dividing by two (2)
 - Take a picture of the ice with a ruler behind it and send to the NWS

Additional Observations:

- **Precipitation-type change(s)**
- **Whiteout Conditions**
- **Ice Jams and ice cover on river**
- **Damaging High Winds or Gusts > 50 mph**
- **River and Coastal flooding**
- **Freezing Spray**



Additional Observations:

- Precipitation-type change(s) (snow to snow, rain to snow...etc)
- Whiteout and/or Blizzard Conditions
- Ice Jams and ice cover on river (report river name and location)
- Damaging High Winds or Gusts > 50 mph (tree or home damage)
- River and Coastal flooding (flooded roads and buildings)
- Freezing Spray



Step 3 – How to Report

- Who - You are (Name and Spotter #)
- What - You experienced (observation/damage)
- Where – The event occurred (your home or street address)
- When – The event occurred (exact time of observation not when reported to the NWS)

Step 4 - How to Contact the NWS

- Toll Free Weather Spotter Reporting Number (no pictures):

1-800-482-0913

- Online Submit Storm Report Website (no pictures)
- Don't forget your Spotter ID!
- <https://inws.ncep.noaa.gov/report/>



Report Type -> Details -> Location -> Review and Send

Please select a report type

- Tornado
- Funnel Cloud
- Flooding**
- Hail
- Wind
- Rainfall
- Snowfall
- Freezing Rain or Ice

Report Type -> Details -> Location -> Review and Send

Time at which you observed this weather
201 PM EDT

Date on which you observed this weather
10/04/2022

Please provide any details of flooding such as roads underwater, washouts, water entering buildings, mudslides, etc.

Surf St. in Saco under 2 feet of water with significant rock and sand debris on road.

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Privacy policy for weather reports

Report Type -> Details -> Location -> Review and Send

Your report is at:
Latitude: 43.8927
Longitude: -70.2545

Clear location

Automatically use your device's location:
Use my device's current location

Search for your address:
1 Weather Lane, Gray, ME
Find Address

Or, you can click your location on the map:

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Privacy policy for weather reports

Report Type -> Details -> Location -> Review and Send

Here is the information you'll be sending:

Report time: 0201 PM 10/04/2022
Latitude: 43.8927
Longitude: -70.2545

You are reporting: Flooding.

Details:
Surf St. in Saco under 2 feet of water with significant rock and sand debris on road.

If you wish to provide a name, spotter ID, or contact info, you can do so here.

CU120

If your NWS office has set up custom reporting groups, you can select one here

Weather Spotter

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001, knowingly and willfully make any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry on this form is a crime punishable by fine and imprisonment.

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- Email Reports – send videos and pictures to gyx.skywarn@noaa.gov
- Report via Social Media NWS Feeds
- NWS Gray will ask for damage posts, can reply to post with damage pictures and reports, don't forget your Spotter ID in the post!
- [@NWSGray](https://twitter.com/NWSGray)
- <https://www.facebook.com/NWSGray/>