

SEVERE WEATHER REPORTING CRITERIA



NWS Northern Indiana

Please report the following ***IMMEDIATELY*** to the NWS at:

Use locally arranged communication process

Twitter - #nwsix

NWS Facebook - <http://goo.gl/stzTt>

Amateur Radio - WX9IWX

e-mail - w-iwx.webmaster@noaa.gov

Tornadoes	- A violently rotating column of air touching the ground
Funnel clouds	- Watch for rotation, usually about a vertical axis!!
Wall clouds	- Watch for rotation and persistence (about 5 minutes)
Wind damage	- Large healthy limbs, structural damage, or trees uprooted
Hail	- Any size! Report the size of the largest stone!
Flooding	- Water rising rapidly, flowing over roads, flooding buildings

Estimating Wind Speed

25-31 mph	Large tree branches moving. Wires whistle.
32-38 mph	Whole trees moving. Inconvenience walk into the wind.
39-46 mph	Small branches or twigs break off. Impedes walking.
47-54 mph	Slight structural damage (shingles blown off). Large branches break off.
55-63 mph	Structural damage (parts of roofs blown off). Trees snapped off.

WE NEED YOUR REPORTS

Tornadoes / Rotation

Hail any size

Damaging winds

Flooding

Snow/Sleet/Icing



<http://goo.gl/stzTt>

WFO Facebook Page

Twitter Tag
#wx4iwx

NWS Northern Indiana e-mail address
w-iwx.webmaster@noaa.gov

NWS Northern Indiana homepage address
<http://www.weather.gov/iwx>



<http://go.usa.gov/Ryt>

Skywarn™

Investigative Spotting Rules

1. **Be prepared! Be aware of the potential or expected weather for the time period during which you will spotting.**

Ways to do this include:

- a. Read latest Hazardous Weather Outlook (tells you what type severe weather is expected and if spotter activation is expected) (www.weather.gov/iwx)
- b. Read SPC's latest discussions (www.spc.noaa.gov)
- c. Read forecast discussions (gives science behind forecast)
- d. Reference various weather sources (even days in advance) for all the info you can glean...examples local weather reports, weather channel, etc.
- e. Have your equipment ready – example - batteries charged for your equipment and spares available, vehicle fueled, maps in vehicle, spotter partner lined up if planning to chase, UPS operating if at home, etc.

2. **ALWAYS begin with the assumption that you will not see any formations that are reportable. When you come across a suspicious cloud formation, assume it is scud or a shelf/roll cloud until you complete the following checklist.**

REMEMBER – climatology says there will be about 1 tornado in your county every 3 years – therefore odds are you **WILL NOT** see one! Many professional chasers have never seen a tornado even though they have been chasing for years!

3. Checklist:

- a. Are you in a favorable location? (southwest corner of a Supercell or southeast corner of a High Precipitation (HP) Supercell)
- b. Are you in an inflow area? (**wind** to your **back** as you **look into** the feature)
- c. Is the cloud feature attached to the base of the parent thunderstorm?
- d. Is the cloud feature rotating? (Spinning like a figure skater or a toy top, normally from left to right. NOT up and down like a rolling pin)
- e. Is the rotating feature persistent? (continuing for several minutes)

4. **If you answered yes to all of the above questions, call in your report immediately. Follow the 4 W's of reporting (Who, What, When & Where) and the 3 C's (Clear, Calm & Concise)**

5. **Continue to monitor and report until the feature dissipates**

6. **Report when the feature dissipates**