



SKYWARN Newsletter

Program Update: 2022 Edition

Fall & Winter 2021/2022 Virtual Classes Announced!

COURSE SCHEDULE

BASIC COURSE:

Date: Friday, Dec 3rd 6PM CT

ADVANCED COURSE:

Date: Wednesday, Dec 8th 530PM CT

BASIC COURSE:

Date: Friday Dec 17th 6PM CT

BASIC COURSE:

Date: Thursday, Jan 13th 10AM CT

ADVANCED COURSE:

Date: Thursday, Jan 20th 530PM CT

NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge office is happy to announce another round of Basic & Advanced SKYWARN courses to be offered virtually for the Fall 2021 / Spring 2022 Season! Be sure to spread the news to family and friends or anyone that would be interested! As a reminder, it is recommended to attend refresher courses every two years.

These courses are always presented live, with interactive polls to maximize engagement. You will also be able to interact and talk with a NWS forecaster during a Q and A session at the very end!

Course registration information can be found on our website: www.weather.gov/lix/skywarn

COVID Update & Transition to In-Person Classes:

In following COVID-19 guidelines, we are not conducting in-person classes at this time. Once COVID-19 protocols are updated to include a transition to in-person outreach, expect an update including specific times, dates and locations for future classes.

TO REGISTER, VISIT:

WEATHER.GOV/NEWORLEANS/SKYWARN

New: Severe T-Storm Warning IBW



Impact-Based Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Currently, a severe thunderstorm is classified as a storm that can produce 58 mph or greater winds and/or 1" or larger hail. Beginning August 2nd, 2021, Severe Thunderstorm Warnings will have Impact Based Warning (IBW) Tags when 70+ mph winds are possible.

Maximum Wind Speed:	Maximum Hail Size:	New IBW Tag	Dissemination
 58 – 70 mph	 1" to 1.5" (Quarter to ping pong ball)	No new tag; identical to current warnings	No change from current method
 70 – 80 mph	 1.75" to 2.5" (Golf ball to tennis ball)	Tagged: "Considerable" Damage Threat	No change from current method
 80 + mph	 2.75" or greater (Baseball size or greater)	Tagged: "Destructive" Damage Threat	Will alert on cell phones as WEA through IPAWS 

www.weather.gov

www.weather.gov/wrn



As of August 2nd, 2021, the NWS implemented IBW (Impact Base Warning) for Severe Thunderstorm Warnings. The purpose of these tags is to better convey the severity and potential impacts from thunderstorm winds and hail by adding a "damage threat" tag, similar to those included in Tornado and Flash Flood Warnings.

There are now three individual categories of damage threat for Severe Thunderstorm Warnings:

1. A **Base** Severe T-Storm Warning: Winds 58mph and/or hail 1.00" (quarter sized).
 - WEA (Wireless Emergency Alert) will NOT activate.
2. A **Considerable** damage threat Severe T-Storm Warning: Winds 70mph and/or hail 1.75" (golf ball-sized).
 - WEA (Wireless Emergency Alert) will not activate.
3. A **Destructive** damage threat Severe T-storm Warning: Winds 80mph and/or hail 2.75" (baseball sized).
 - WEA (Wireless Emergency Alert) **will** activate.

These tags and supplemental messaging are designed to initiate immediate action based on the extent of the potential threats. The Destructive tag, in particular, will activate WEAs indicating the potential for dangerous winds or hail that could result in substantial threats to life and property.

The addition of damage threat tags are part of the broader Hazard Simplification Project to improve communication of NWS watches and warnings to the public.



Effective November 4th, 2021, the National Weather Service consolidated and/or reformatted Flood Watches, Warnings and Advisories. These changes were also a part of the broader Hazard Simplification (HazSimp) Project to improve communication and understanding of hazards to the public. Details about each change are as follows:

1. Flash Flood Watches and Flood Watches have been consolidated into one Flood Watch Product when the immediate cause is excessive rainfall. Flash Flood Watches will only be issued for these specific situations:
 - a. Threat of flash flooding due to non-convective causes (e.g., dam or levee failure, ice jam)
 - b. Threat of flash flooding and debris flows caused by excessive rainfall on burn scars or in debris flow- and landslide-prone areas.
2. The five types of individual headlines associated with Flood Advisory products, including Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisories, Arroyo and Small Stream Flood Advisories, Small Stream Flood Advisories, Flood Advisories, and Hydrologic Advisories have been consolidated into a single Flood Advisory product.
3. With the exception of Flash Flood warning and follow-up statements, all Flood Watch/Warning/Advisory products have been reformatted into "What," "Where," "When," "Impacts," "Additional Details" information ordering format. The Flash Flood Warning and Flash Flood Statement will remain in Impact-Based Warning (IBW) format

While the National Weather Service still intends to eliminate Advisory headlines across all hazards with plain language headlines no earlier than 2024, consolidation and reformatting of advisories in the short-term is designed to reap the benefits of improved message clarity immediately.

Reporting Reminders

As always mentioned in our Basic and Advanced courses, there are multiple ways to relay weather reports to the forecasters here at NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge.

What to Report:

- Hail of ANY size
- Winds greater than 58mph
- Wind Damage
- Tornadoes, Waterspouts, Funnel Clouds
- Widespread flooding covering roadways or inundating property.

Remember, there are multiple ways to report severe weather to us directly!

Call us!

504-522-7330
or: **985-649-0357**

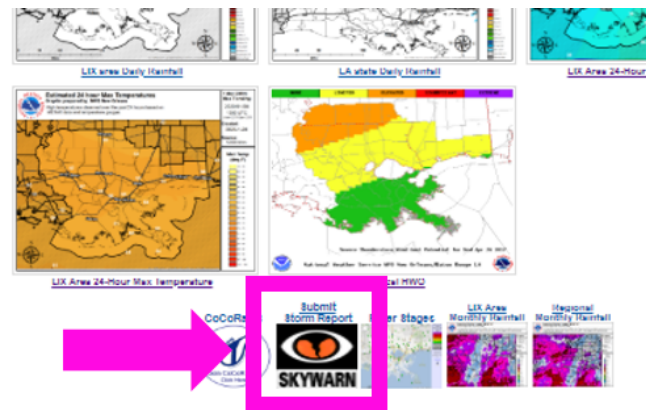
Use Ext 4 to speak with a forecaster on shift.

What we need to know:

- **Who you are:**
 - Let us know you are a trained spotter.
- **What you witnessed:**
 - Specific weather event
- **When the event occurred:**
 - NOT the time of the report.
- **Where the event occurred:**
 - Direction and distance from your location.

Through our Website!

Visit www.weather.gov/lix and scroll to the bottom of the page to find the SKYWARN logo with the label "Submit Storm Report"



This will take you to a Google Form to fill out which will transmit your report directly to forecasters on shift!

Always remember safety!

- Never put yourself in harm's way!
- Keep a safe distance
- Do not expose yourself to life-threatening weather. Stay sheltered until it passes
- NEVER get in the way of local rescue officials following a devastating weather event.

Through Social Media!

 **Tweet us @NWSNewOrleans**

 **Facebook: @NWSNewOrleans**

Any questions or concerns? Feel free to reach out to us anytime! Give us a call or email us at sr-lix.webmaster@noaa.gov

We plan to continue these newsletter updates annually to bring you the latest updates to the spotter program, as well as new changes in NWS products nationwide or locally here at WFO LIX. Stay tuned!

-Kevin Gilmore
SKYWARN Program Leader
WFO LIX New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA