



## What to Report

- **Injuries/Fatalities**
- **Damage**, including:
  - ✓ Trees (snapped? uprooted? what diameter?)
  - ✓ Branches (what diameter?)
  - ✓ Power poles (snapped?)
  - ✓ Structural damage (windows? roofs? walls?)
- **Tornado** (rotation? debris?)
- **Funnel cloud** (rotation?)
- **Wall cloud** (rotation?)
- **Hail** (all sizes)
- **Wind gusts** (40 mph or greater)
- **Heavy rain**, at least:
  - ✓ 1-in over few hours
  - ✓ 2-in over 1-day or more
- **Flooding**, including:
  - ✓ Rivers/streams/creeks out of banks
  - ✓ Swiftly moving water at least 6 in deep
  - ✓ Standing water at least 1-2 ft deep
  - ✓ Water entering structures
  - ✓ Road closures
  - ✓ Mud, rock, or debris flow
  - ✓ Ice jams, levee failures, or dam breaks

## How to Report

- **Call** number below (web/email/social media may not be received as quickly)
- **Tell us:**
  - ✓ **Who** you are
  - ✓ **Where** you are
  - ✓ **Where** the weather/damage occurred
  - ✓ **When** it occurred
  - ✓ **What** weather/damage was observed

Report through your local spotter network, or contact NWS direct via:

Web: [www.weather.gov/chicago](http://www.weather.gov/chicago)  
("Submit Storm Report")

Email: [nws.chicago@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.chicago@noaa.gov)

Ham Radio: WX9LOT

Facebook: @NWSChicago

Twitter: @NWSChicago

## Hail Size: Please DO NOT report marble sized hail.

- Pea = ¼ inch
- Mothball = ½ inch
- Penny/Dime size = ¾ inch
- Nickel size = 0.88 inch
- Quarter size = 1 inch **\*\*\*severe\*\*\***
- Half Dollar = 1 ¼ inch
- Walnut = 1 ½ inch

- Golf ball = 1 ¾ inch
- Egg = 2 inches
- Billiard ball = 2 ¼ inch
- Tennis ball = 2 ½ inch
- Baseball = 2 ¾ inch
- Softball = 4 ½ inch

## Estimating Wind Speed

40 to 55 mph (non-severe)	Trees swaying, twigs and small limbs break, loose, lightweight objects (trash cans, lawn chairs) blown around.
60 to 80 mph	Medium to large tree limbs downed, sheds, barns and weak structures damaged, truck pushed off the highway.
80 to 100 mph	Numerous large tree limbs downed, shallow rooted trees pushed over, buildings partially unroofed, farm buildings, weak structures severely damaged.

## Flash Flood /Flood

- See reverse side of this sheet

## Helpful Internet Links

NWS Chicago Weather Briefing Page	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/chicago/wx_watcher">www.weather.gov/chicago/wx_watcher</a>
Weather Spotter's Field Guide	<a href="https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11(1).pdf">https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11(1).pdf</a>
Online Spotter Training Course	<a href="http://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23">www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23</a>
2020 Spotter Training Certificate	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/media/lot/spotter/2020weather_certificate.pdf">www.weather.gov/media/lot/spotter/2020weather_certificate.pdf</a>

## How to Differentiate Flash Flooding and Flooding

Flash Flooding	Flooding
Rapid rise of water into areas where it should not be that requires immediate action to protect life and property	Water where it should not be that can cause damage to property or threat to life that does not fit flash flood criteria
Rapid onset, minutes to hours (Generally less than 6 hours)	Generally slower onset, hours to days
<b>Swiftly moving water:</b> 6 inches deep or more	<b>Moving water:</b> Less than 6 inches deep
<b>Ponded water:</b> Greater than 3 feet deep	<b>Ponded water:</b> Less than 3 feet deep
<b>Reporting Guidelines/Suggestions:</b> Report via <b>phone</b> if flash flooding occurring.	<b>Reporting Guidelines/Suggestions:</b> Report as flooding when estimated depth fits the above. Note whether the flooding is worsening.

### Additional Considerations for differentiating Flooding vs. Flash Flooding:

- How quickly did the flooding begin after rainfall started?  
*Inundation of structures and roadways to the required depth (>6" flowing or >3 ft. standing) is generally considered flash flooding if onset was rapid.*
- What types of areas are impacted by the water? Are any roadways or structures impacted?
- What kinds of actions were required to address the flood impacts? Any evacuations? Any road closures?
- Are impacted structures experiencing basement flooding?  
*Basement/lower-level flooding due to sewer backups and sump pump failures does not count as flooding.*
- Is the flooding from a particular stream, river, or waterway?  
*If we know the name of the stream causing the flood impacts, we can look for additional information (gauge data, reports) related to that stream.*

**DO NOT** endanger your safety! **DO NOT** drive or walk across flooded roads!  
Only report when it is safe to do so