

How to Report Severe Weather

There are several options available when it comes to reporting severe weather to the National Weather Service Office in Nashville, TN. Whether you are on the road, at home, or in your office, there is a quick and easy way to get your report to us.

- Post it on our Facebook wall. Search for **US National Weather Service** 
- **Post it on X** with @NWSNashville and remember to add #tspotter or #tnwx 
- You may also send reports and photos to sr-ohx.webmaster@noaa.gov

A major contribution to the success of our severe weather warning program is the receipt of storm reports from all of our customers and partners across middle Tennessee.



Additional Information

Damage Paths

Tornado

- Convergence
- Narrow, well-defined track
- Rotation about a vertical axis



Downburst

- Divergence
- Broad, diffuse track
- No rotation on a horizontal axis



Enhanced Fujita Scale (EF Scale)

The National Weather Service uses the Enhanced Fujita Scale to classify tornadoes based on their intensity.

Tornadoes are rated EF0 to EF5 according to their maximum estimated wind

EF Number	3 Second Gust (mph)
0	65-85
1	86-110
2	111-135
3	136-165
4	166-200
5	Over 200

REMEMBER, SAFETY FIRST! PLEASE, DO NOT PUT YOURSELF OR ANYONE ELSE IN DANGER JUST TO GATHER STORM INFORMATION. STAY IN YOUR SAFE PLACE DURING POTENTIALLY SEVERE WEATHER.



National Weather Service



Local Storm Reports: How and What to Report

The National Weather Service in Nashville Needs **YOUR** Help!



Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service



What Should Be Reported?

When reporting severe weather, the National Weather Service needs as much detail in the information as possible. Here is a quick list of the pertinent information to pass along to us:

- **LOCATION** of the severe weather event
 - Reference to the nearest town, major cross streets, address
 - GPS coordinates if available
- **TIME** of the weather event and/or the report
 - Not necessarily the current time, unless the event is ongoing
- **DESCRIPTION** of the weather event
 - Tornado/funnel cloud
 - Rotating wall cloud
 - Flash flooding
 - Damaging winds (≥ 60 mph)
 - Large hail (1 inch or larger)
 - Persistent non-rotating wall cloud
 - Heavy rainfall (1 inch per hour or more)
 - Small hail ($\leq \frac{3}{4}$ inch)
 - Strong winds (< 60 mph)
 - Other cloud structures



The higher up on this list, the more urgent it is to submit your report.

Winds/Hail

Measured and/or estimated wind speeds should be reported whether damage occurred or not. Below is a chart that may help you estimate wind speeds if you do not have a measuring instrument on hand.

Wind Speed (mph)	Effects
25-31	Large tree branches in motion; whistling in power lines; umbrella use becomes difficult
32-38	Whole trees in motion; difficult to walk against the wind
39-46	Twigs broken; cars veer on road
47-54	Light structure damage
55-63	Trees uprooted; considerable structure damage
64+	Widespread structure damage

Regardless of the size, hail should also be reported to the National Weather Service. Pea size hail reports are just as welcomed and appreciated as those of baseball size. Hail size can be measured with a ruler or some other type of device, but it can also be estimated by comparing it to certain everyday objects.

Hail:
 0.75" - Penny
 0.88" - Nickel
 1.00" - Quarter
 1.25" - Half Dollar
 1.50" - Ping Pong Ball
 1.75" - Golf Ball
 2.50" - Tennis Ball
 2.75" - Baseball
 4.00" - Grapefruit
 4.50" - Softball



When reporting strong/damaging winds or hail, please be specific as to whether the wind speed or size is measured or estimated. If reporting wind damage, try to be as detailed as possible when describing the type and extent of the damage.

Flash Flooding

The following criteria have been established to define flash flooding in middle Tennessee:

- 1) Flooding is imminent or likely to occur, and is expected produce a significant threat to life and property; i.e., home and/or businesses are likely to be flooded, and/or roadways closed, barricaded, or washed out.
- 2) Six inches of fast-flowing water across a maintained county, state, or federal roadway is expected.



Reports of heavy rainfall are also welcomed at NWS Nashville. If you have a rain gauge, please feel free to call in your measured rainfall accumulations during heavy rain events.

Lightning

The National Weather Service does not issue warnings for lightning because all thunderstorms



contain lightning. However, please report any injuries/deaths related to lightning. We also appreciate any reports of lightning strikes to homes and other structures that result in fires.