

Beware of Tornado Look-alikes

Scud clouds are perhaps the most common feature mistaken for tornadoes. They are low, ragged cloud fragments that can sometimes be located near the updraft region of the storm. However, **they lack organized, persistent rotation**. Here are a couple examples of scud clouds.



There are several other features, some associated with an actual storm and others that are not, that can also be mistaken for a tornado.



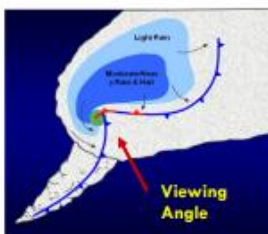
Rainshaft - also lacks organized rotation about a vertical axis



Upward directed shadow cast on a higher cloud deck by a low cloud eclipsing the setting sun.

Best Angle for Viewing a Tornado

Position is *extremely* important when viewing a possible tornadic thunderstorm. You should be to the **southeast** of the storm when viewing a tornado. Therefore, the storm should be to your northwest.



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.



500 Weather Station Rd. Old Hickory, TN 37138

www.weather.gov/ohx

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



Storm Spotter Quick Reference



The Eyes & Ears of the
National Weather Service

NWS NASHVILLE, TN

Reporting Severe Weather

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

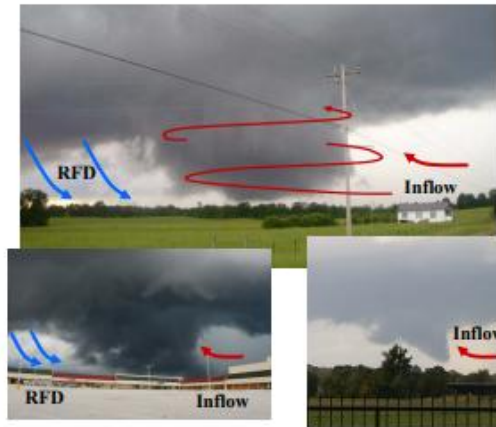
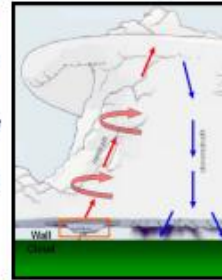
- Tornado/funnel cloud
- Rotating wall cloud
- Flash flooding
- Damaging winds (≥ 60 mph)
- Large hail (1 inch or larger)
- Persistent non-rotating wall cloud
- Heavy rainfall (1 inch per hour or more)
- Small hail ($\leq \frac{3}{4}$ inch)
- Strong winds (< 60 mph)
- Other cloud structures

Increasing Urgency

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

Wall Clouds (Inflow)

- A localized, persistent lowering of the cloud from the rainfree base
- Normally found on the south/southwest (inflow) side of the thunderstorm
- May exhibit rapid upward and downward motion, as well as rotation



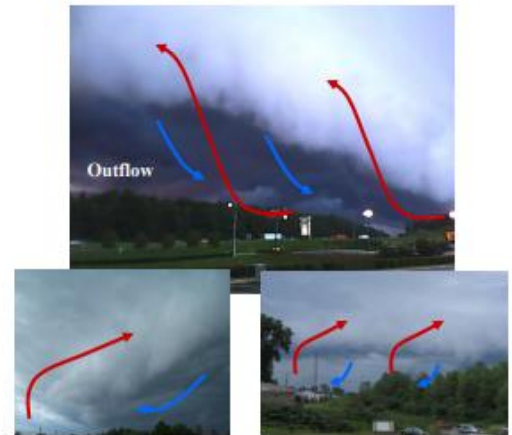
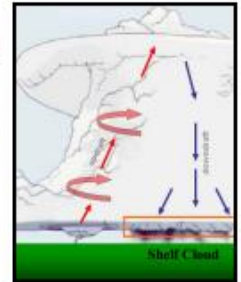
Wall Cloud vs. Shelf Cloud

Wall Clouds	Shelf Clouds
Suggest updraft and inflow	Suggest downdraft and outflow
Maintain position with respect to precip area	Move away from precip area
Slope upward away from precip	Slope downward away from precip

Just remember that wall clouds are associated with **inflow**, while shelf clouds are associated with **outflow**.

Shelf Cloud (Outflow)

- More common than wall clouds, especially in the summer
- Associated with cool outflow
- May be turbulent, but lack persistent, organized rotation



Spotter Safety Tips

If a tornado is approaching and in your vehicle:

- **GET TO SHELTER**—the safest place is the basement. If a basement is not available, move to a small interior room away from windows.
- If no escape is possible, and you can't find a sturdy shelter, abandon your vehicle and lay flat in a dry ravine or ditch away from your vehicle.