



## Skywarn Storm Spotter Reference Sheet

### What to Report

- **Injuries/Fatalities**
- **Damage:**
  - Trees down (snapped or uprooted? diameter?)
  - Branches broken (diameter?)
  - Power poles down
  - Structural damage
- **Tornado** (rotation like a spinning top? debris?)
- **Funnel Cloud** (rotation like a spinning top?)
- **Wall Cloud** (rotation like a spinning top?)
- **Hail** (all sizes)
- **Wind Gusts** (40 mph or greater)
- **Heavy rain** (1" or more)
- **Unusual Water Issues:**
  - Floating/stalled cars
  - Water on roads (flowing? depth? trend?)
  - Unusual road closures
  - Flooded buildings
  - Mud or rock slides
  - Rapidly rising water

### How to Report

- Include:
- **Who** you are (spotter number?)
  - **Where** you are
  - **Where** the weather occurred
  - **When** it occurred
  - **What** was observed

#### Contact NWS direct via:

Phone: Provided during training

**Always call directly for tornado and funnel cloud reports.**

Web: [www.weather.gov/dvn](http://www.weather.gov/dvn)  
("Submit a Storm Report" under Current Hazards tab)

#### Share pictures via:

Facebook: NWSQuadCities  
Twitter: @NWSQuadCities

**Report through your local or county spotter network.**

### Estimating Wind Speed (Beaufort Scale)

25-31 mph	Large branches in motion, whistling in power lines
32-38 mph	Whole trees in motion
39-54 mph	Twigs break off trees, wind impedes walking
55-72 mph	Damage to chimneys and antennas, shallow-rooted trees blown over
73-112 mph	Peels surface off roof, windows broken, trailer houses overturned
113+ mph	Roofs off houses, weak buildings and trailer houses destroyed, big trees uprooted

### Helpful Internet Links

NWS Quad Cities	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/quadcities">www.weather.gov/quadcities</a>
NWS for Mobile Devices	<a href="http://mobile.weather.gov">mobile.weather.gov</a>
Becoming a Storm Spotter	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/quadcities/spotters">www.weather.gov/quadcities/spotters</a>
Downloadable Spotter Guide	<a href="http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/SGJune6-11.pdf">www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/SGJune6-11.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>
Online Radar Basics Course	<a href="http://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=960">www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=960</a>
Radar (and Weather) Tutorials	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream">www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream</a>
CoCoRaHS Network	<a href="http://www.cocorahs.org">www.cocorahs.org</a>
Iowa Environmental Mesonet	<a href="http://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu">mesonet.agron.iastate.edu</a>

## Supercells: Step By Step

Step 1: Identify the updraft (and downdraft)

Step 2: Determine storm motion

Step 3: Make sure your location is safe

Step 4: Assess strength/potential

Step 5: Look for visible rotation in updraft

Step 6: { Watch downdraft for strong winds / hail  
or watch updraft for rotating wall cloud / tornado

Step 7: Report critical information

