



2017 Spotter Reference Sheet

What to Report	How to Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injuries/Fatalities • Damage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Trees down (snapped or uprooted? Diameter?) ✓ Branches broken (diameter?) ✓ Power poles down ✓ Structural damage • Tornado (rotation? debris?) • Funnel cloud (rotation?) • Wall cloud (rotation?) • Hail (all sizes) • Wind gusts (40 mph or greater) • Heavy rain (1" or more) • Creeks out of banks • Water > 6" deep with current on road • Water > 2' deep standing on roads • Unusual road and/or bridge closures • Buildings filled with water • Mud or rock slides or debris flow • Ice jam, levee failure, dam break 	<p>Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who you are • Where you are • Where the weather occurred • When it occurred • What was observed <p>Report through your local spotter network. If the network is not active:</p> <p>Contact NWS direct via:</p> <p>Phone: <i>Provided in training class</i></p> <p>Web: www.weather.gov/lot (“Submit Storm Report”)</p> <p>Ham Radio: WX9LOT</p> <p>Share pictures via:</p> <p>Facebook: @NWSChicago Twitter: @NWSChicago</p>

Hail Size: Please **DO NOT** report marble sized hail

Pea = ¼ inch	Golf ball = 1 ¾ inch
Mothball = ½ inch	Egg = 2 inches
Penny size = ¾ inch	Billiard ball = 2 ¼ inch
Nickel size = 0.88 inch	Tennis ball = 2 ½ inch
Quarter size = 1 inch ***severe***	Baseball = 2 ¾ inch
Half Dollar = 1 ¼ inch	Softball = 4 ½ inch
Walnut = 1 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 uprooted, farm buildings, weak structures severely damaged.

Flash Flood

- Person or vehicle swept away by flowing water, or rescued from deep standing water
- A maintained county or state road closed by high water
- A stream that flows out of its banks and poses a threat
- 6 inches or more of flowing water over a road or 3 feet of standing water
- Rainfall of an inch or more in an hour or less in an urban area or 2 inches in rural areas

Helpful Internet Links

NWS Chicago	www.weather.gov/lot
Weather Spotter's Field Guide	www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/SGJune6-11.pdf
Online Spotter Training Course	www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23
Weather Tutorial	www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream