

NWS Sioux Falls Spotter Reference Sheet

2020

What to Report

Tornadoes
Funnel Clouds
Rotating Wall Clouds

Hail (size and amount)
Wind Gusts (45 mph or greater)

Flooding/Water over roads
Heavy rain (1" or more per hour)

Any damage
Injuries/Fatalities

How to Report

Follow your community's established reporting procedure, or...

Contact NWS Sioux Falls via:

Phone: **1-800-852-9470 *unlisted***
Internet: www.weather.gov/siouxfalls
Email: nws.siouxfalls@noaa.gov
Twitter: @NWSSiouxFalls

Tell us:

- **Who** you are
- **What** was observed
- **Where** the weather occurred
- **When** it occurred

Reporting Hail Size

- Reference to the size of a coin or game ball (no marbles please)

Or measure it:

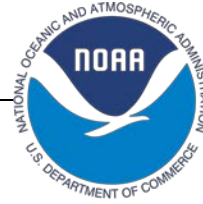


Estimating Wind Speed – Beaufort Scale

25-31 mph	Large branches in motion, whistling in power lines
32-38 mph	Whole trees in motion
39-46 mph	Twigs and small branches break off trees, wind impedes walking
47-54 mph	Many small twigs, branches, leaf litter down; towers or shingles down?
55-63 mph	Roof damage; small trees blown over or uprooted; crop damage
64-75 mph	Widespread damage occurs; large trees blown over and uprooted
>75 mph	Severe and extensive damage; corn flat; trees uprooted; windows broke

Helpful Internet Links

NWS Sioux Falls	www.weather.gov/siouxfalls
Reporting App	mPing (iOS and Android)
Online Reporting	https://inws.ncep.noaa.gov/report/
CoCoRaHS	www.cocorahs.org
NWS Weather Spotter's Field Guide	https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11(1).pdf
Cloud Chart	https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/cloud_chart.pdf
Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Lightning Booklet	https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/ttl6-10.pdf



Deployment Guidelines

- Stay informed on the latest weather threats. What is the hazardous weather potential that day? What is the National Weather Service expecting? Use resources like:
 - **Outlooks (graphical and text)**
 - Commercial radio or television
 - NOAA Weather Radio
 - Internet/Mobile Apps/Social Media
- Deployment should be done anytime strong to severe storms approach. This means monitoring radar and upstream conditions more than relying strictly on watches/warnings.
- Use **OUTLOOKS** for deployment guidance. A **WATCH** should be a “heads up” that severe weather is possible soon (next 6 hours). Ideally, spotters should be in place **BEFORE** a **WARNING** is issued.
- Ensure your reports get to the National Weather Service! Specific observations or details are always useful. You can also post on Social Media, including our Facebook and/or Twitter accounts.
- Photos or video can be sent to nws.siouxfalls@noaa.gov or posted to Facebook and/or Twitter.

Supercell Visual Cues

