



# Spotter Reference Sheet

## 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)**
  - **NOAA Weather Radio**
  - **Commercial Radio or Television**
  - **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 X accounts.

## How To Report

Follow your community's established reporting procedure or use these other methods

### Contact NWS Sioux Falls At:



**By Voice**

1-800-852-9470 (unlisted)



**By Text**

1-605-368-1385 (only for reports)



[www.weather.gov/siouxfalls](http://www.weather.gov/siouxfalls)



[nws.siouxfalls@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.siouxfalls@noaa.gov)



@NWSSiouxFalls



@NWSSiouxFalls

## What To Report

Timely reporting can help in the warning process

- Tornadoes
- Funnel Clouds
- Rotating Wall Clouds
- Hail (size and amount)
- Wind Gusts (>45 MPH)
- Flooding/Water Over Roads
- Heavy Rain (>1" per hour)
- Any Damage
- Any Injuries or Fatalities

**Tell Us**

**Who You Are**

**What Was Observed**

**Where the Weather Occured**

**When it Occurred**

# Reporting Hail Size

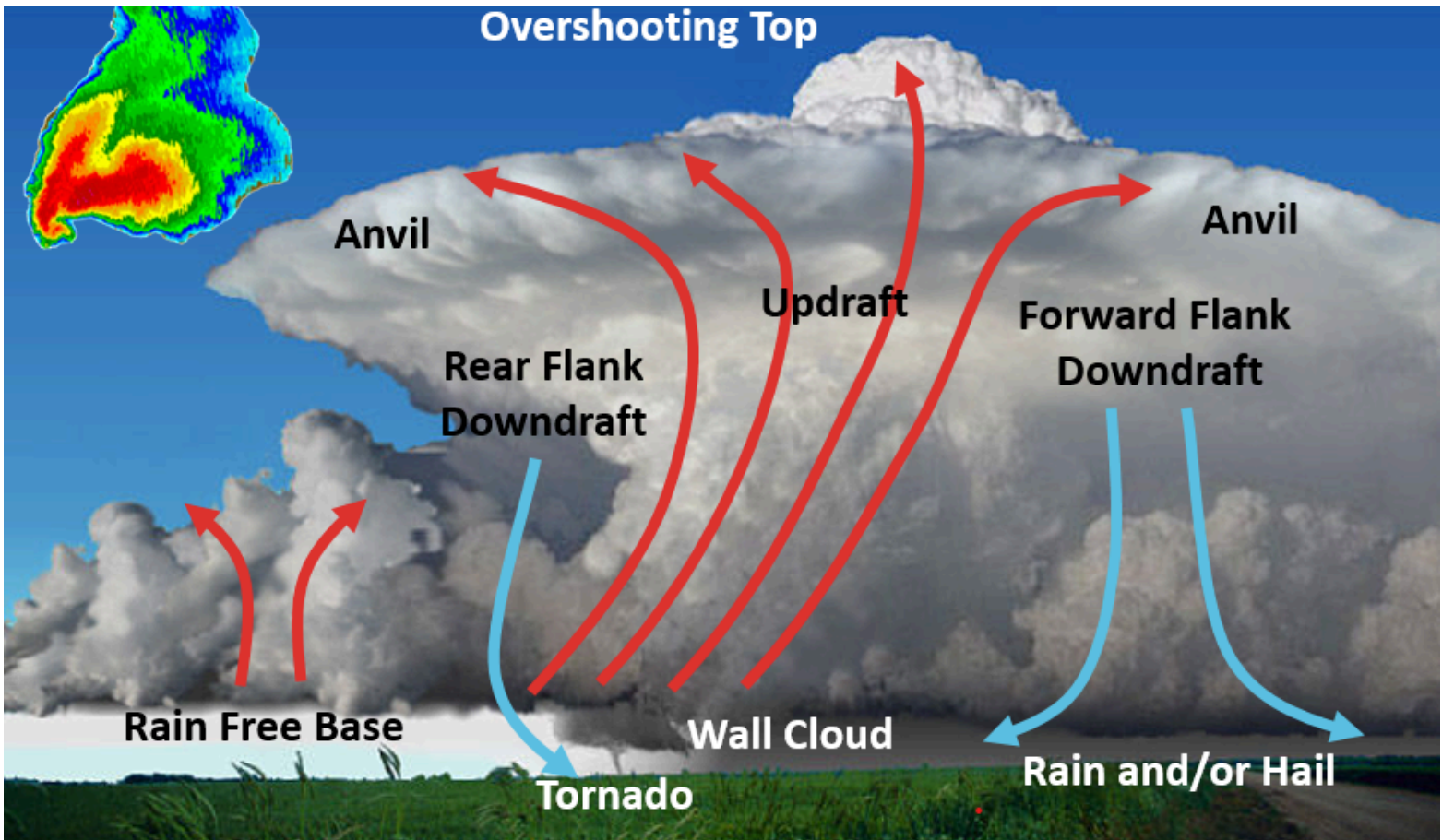
Reference hail to the size of a coin or common object (no marbles)

0.50" Dime	1.50" Walnut/Ping Pong Ball	3.00" Tea Cup
0.75" Penny	1.75" Golf Ball	4.00" Softball
0.88" Nickel	2.00" Hen Egg	4.50" Grapefruit
1.00" Quarter	2.50" Tennis Ball	
1.25" Half Dollar	2.75" Baseball	

# Estimating Wind Speed

- 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

# Supercell Visual Cues



# Helpful Links

- Online Reporting:** <https://inws.ncep.noaa.gov/report>
- CoCoRaHS:** [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org)
- Spotters Field Guide:** [https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11\(1\).pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11(1).pdf)
- Thunderstorms Booklet:** <https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/ttl6-10.pdf>