



SKYWARN Reporting Criteria

The following is SKYWARN reporting criteria that should be followed and the type of reports that should be gathered across the entire SKYWARN network via Amateur Radio.

- Tornadoes or funnel clouds (be very wary of look-alikes; watch for rotation)
- Wall clouds, especially if they are rotating
- Hail (Be specific with regard to size; DO NOT report MARBLE size)
- Winds (40 mph or greater; specify whether estimated or recorded)
 - large branches downed (specify diameter of branch)
 - Trees/power lines downed
 - Structural damage to buildings (roof, windows, etc.)
- Rainfall
 - 1 inch or greater in an hour (NOT a 1"/hr. rate for 10 minutes)
 - 2 inches or greater storm total
- Flooding
 - Streams/Rivers – also, when nearing bankful
 - Coastal
 - Street (Road Closures/Washouts, Cars Stuck due to flood waters. Minimum of 6" of water covering an entire roadway or lane of a major route/highway)
- Winter Weather
 - Precipitation type change (rain to sleet/freezing rain/snow, when the change has "taken hold")
 - Thunder, when accompanied by snow
 - 1/4" radial ice accretion (from twig outward; not circumference)
- New Snowfall
 - First 2 inches; every 2-3 inches thereafter
 - 1 inch per hour or greater
 - If less than 2 inches total, give final total only
 - Give final total (don't leave us hanging with a partial report)
 - Report any snow/sleet/freezing rain if not in NWS forecast!

PROCEDURES

- 1) Advise Amateur Operators to BRIEFLY describe WHAT was observed; and WHEN & WHERE it was observed.
- 2) Make sure hail size is noted using proper conventions (NO Marble Sized Hail).
- 3) Make sure if winds are estimated that they use estimates as taught in SKYWARN training.

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Appendix A, What to Report (from <https://www.weather.gov/box/SKYWARN>)

Severe Weather		
Weather Event	Report Criteria	What Specifically to Report
FUNNEL CLOUD		Organized, persistent, sustained rotation
HAIL	Pea-size or larger	Report the largest size hailstone
STORM DAMAGE		Damage to structures (roof, siding, windows, etc) Damage to vehicles (from hail and/or wind) Trees or large limbs down Power/telephone poles and/or lines down Damage to farm equipment, machinery, etc.
TORNADO		Any!
WALL CLOUD		Organized, persistent, sustained rotation
WIND GUSTS	40 mph or higher	Specify estimate or measurement

Hail Type	Hail Size
Pea	0.25 inch
Half-inch	0.50 inch
Dime	0.75 inch
Nickel	0.88 inch
Quarter	1.00 inch
Half Dollar	1.25 inch
Ping Pong Ball	1.50 inch
Golf Ball	1.75 inch
Hen Egg	2.00 inch
Tennis Ball	2.50 inch
Baseball	2.75 inch
Tea Cup	3.00 inch
Grapefruit	4.00 inch
Softball	4.50 inch

Weather Event	Report Criteria	What Specifically to Report
Flooding		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flooding that impacts roads, homes or businesses. Streams or Rivers are near bankful. ▪ Minor, moderate or major coastal flooding ▪ Ice jams
Rainfall		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Storm Total of 2 inches or more ▪ One inch or more in 1 hour

Wind Speed	Typically Observed Damage
30-44 mph (26-39 kt)	Whole trees in motion. Inconvenient walking into the wind. Light-weight loose objects (e.g., lawn furniture) tossed or toppled.
45-57 mph (39-49 kt)	Large trees bend; twigs, small limbs break and a few larger dead or weak branches may break. Old/weak structures (e.g., sheds, barns) may sustain minor damage (roof, doors). Buildings partially under construction may be damaged. A few loose shingles removed from houses.
58-74 mph (50-64 kt)	Large limbs break; shallow rooted trees pushed over. Semi-trucks overturned. More significant damage to old/weak structures. Shingles, awnings removed from houses; damage to chimneys and antennas.
75-89 mph (65-77 kt)	Widespread damage to trees with large limbs down or trees broken/uprooted. Mobile homes may be pushed off foundation or overturned. Roof may be partially peeled off industrial/commercial/ warehouse buildings. Some minor roof damage to homes. Weak structures (e.g., farm buildings, airplane hangars) may be severely damaged.
90+ mph (78+ kt)	Many large trees broken and uprooted. Mobile homes damaged. Roofs partially peeled off homes and buildings. Moving automobiles pushed off the road. Barns, sheds demolished.

Weather Event	Criteria
Snowfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowfall amounts 2-inches or greater ▪ If snowfall rates are 1-inch per hour or greater ▪ Final snowfall total immediately at the end of the storm
Winter Weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Precipitation type changes (rain to sleet/freezing rain/snow, when the change has "taken hold") ▪ Thunder, when accompanied by snow ▪ 1/4-inch radial ice accretion (from twig outward; not circumference)