



NWS Chicago (LOT) SKYWARN REPORTING CHECKLIST



Field Reference for Spotters & Net Control

LOCATION

- Distance + direction + nearest town
- Major roads or landmarks if helpful
- Mobile spotters: report from a fixed point

TORNADO / FUNNEL CLOUD / ROTATION

Report Immediately:

- Tornado on the ground
- Funnel cloud (persistent, rotating)
- Wall cloud with strong, persistent rotation
- Debris cloud under storm base
- Tornado or wind damage

FLOODING

- Report when water is:
 - Covering roads
 - Rapidly rising
 - Entering buildings
 - Stranding vehicles
 - Washing out roads or culverts

WINTER WEATHER

- Snowfall rates ≥ 1 inch/hour
- Freezing rain causing slick roads or downed limbs
- Ice accumulation on trees, power lines, or roads
- Whiteout conditions
- Blizzard conditions (visibility $< \frac{1}{4}$ mile + winds ≥ 35 mph)
- Drifting snow blocking roads

HAIL

- Report any hail
- 1 inch (quarter-size) or larger = severe
- Give largest size using common objects

WIND & DAMAGE

- Wind Speeds
 - ≥ 50 mph — small limbs breaking
 - ≥ 58 mph — severe criteria
 - ≥ 70 mph — structural damage likely
- Damage
 - Trees or large limbs down
 - Power lines down
 - Roof, siding, or structural damage
 - Vehicles blown off roads

RAINFALL

- Report measured amounts:
 - Heavy rain causing flooding
 - 1 inch or more in a short time
 - 3 inches or more total

CLOUD FEATURES (Only if Well-Defined)

- Report:
 - Wall cloud (especially rotating)
 - Shelf cloud only if severe winds occur
 - Rapid vertical motion or rotation

Do not report:

- Scud
- Non-rotating lowerings

STANDARD REPORT FORMAT

Location — Time — What You Saw — Confidence

“2 miles NE of Elgin — now — quarter-size hail. — measured”

“Rockford airport — 5 minutes ago — 60 mph gust — estimated”

“Near Plano — now — rotating wall cloud, persistent”