



# Skywarn® Spotter Report Reference Sheet

National Weather Service, Cleveland, Ohio

## What should I report?

- Tornado, funnel cloud, or wall cloud
- Large hail (0.5" or greater)
- Wind damage
- Winds measured/estimated at 50mph or greater
- Flooding
- Heavy rain (1" or more)
- Heavy snow (2" or more)
- Death or serious injury caused by the weather

## When do I report?

Immediate, real-time reports, are most helpful for warning operations, but delayed reports are also important, even days after an event. Delayed reports are used for climatological and verification purposes.

Never compromise your safety just to give us a report. If you are in danger, move to a safe location and then provide your report.

## How do I report?

Be sure to provide the location where the event occurred (nearest city, county, and state) and the time that the event occurred in your report. If you are unsure of what you are seeing, express your uncertainty in your report. You can relay your report to us by:

- Amateur Radio (Backbone 52.680)
- Telephone (1-800-262-9683)
- eSpotter website (<http://eSpotter.weather.gov>)
- Facebook (US National Weather Service Cleveland OH)
- Twitter (NWS Cleveland, @NWSCLE)

## Tornadoes

Several atmospheric and man-made features may be mistaken for tornadoes or funnel clouds. Some of the most common are scud clouds, rain shafts, smoke, and communication towers. To distinguish between a real tornado or funnel and something else, study the feature and answer the following questions:

- Can I see it clearly?
- Is the feature attached to a thunderstorm base?
- Is the feature in the section of the storm where tornadoes/funnels typically develop (i.e., near the updraft)?
- Is there organized rotation present within the feature?
- If it appears to be a tornado, is there debris?



Please visit

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/SGJune6-11.pdf>

for a detailed spotter field guide!

Telephone: 1-800-262-9683

Web: [www.weather.gov/cle](http://www.weather.gov/cle)

Twitter: [@NWSCLE](https://twitter.com/NWSCLE)

Facebook: [US National Weather Service Cleveland OH](https://www.facebook.com/USNationalWeatherServiceClevelandOH)