

SPOTTER REPORTING GUIDELINES

CONDITION GREEN

When NCS places the net under condition GREEN, spotters may report any and all storm effects, at the discretion and directions of NCS, such as

Gust from arrival

Approaching Thunderstorm

Heavy Rain, etc.

CONDITION YELLOW

When NCS places the net under condition YELLOW, spotter reports are restricted to RED reports plus other extreme storm effects such as:

Intense and frequent lightning

Hail. Giving its approximate diameter

Damaging winds, giving brief reports of damage observed

Torrential rain (with near zero visibility)

Flooding over the curb

Spotters should otherwise maintain radio silence. Check-ins and other less serious reports are not permitted under Condition Yellow

CONDITION RED

When NCS places the net under condition RED spotters should only report sightings of:

Tornadoes

Funnel Clouds

Wall Clouds

$\frac{3}{4}$ diameter or larger hail (dime size= $\frac{3}{4}$ inch)

Spotters should otherwise maintain radio silence. Check-ins and other less serious reports are not permitted under Condition Red.

SPOTTERS REPORTING PROCEDURES

The most simple way of reporting is called the TEL SYSTEM:

T = Time of Observation

E – Effect (Hail, Wind, Etc.)

L = Location

TIME of the observation is very important in the spotter's report. For example, a tornado moving at 50 MPH will travel over 4 miles in 5 minutes. The time of the sighting will help radar man more quickly determine the specific storm cell of the tornado as it moves along. All reports should use "local" time.

EFFECTS of the storm system can include such things as: hail, heavy rain, a wall cloud, a funnel cloud or tornado. Description of the effects should be brief and concise. It is usually enough to give just the name of the storm effects such as "funnel cloud". A "hail" report should include it's size (i.e. pea size, golf ball size, or estimated like $\frac{1}{4}$ inch). A report of damaging winds should, briefly and concisely, describe the damage being observed.

LOCATION of storm effect should be indicated as closely as possible, using reference to the nearest town (i.e. 2 miles east of Jasper) or the nearest major road or street intersections, including an estimate of the direction that the storm is traveling. Give your location with every report.

Here are some examples of how a report might be made:

3:47 – Gust front with 50 mph winds at 223 and Slee heading to the northeast.

3:50 – ½ inch hail at 127 and Raymond moving to the northeast,

3:56 – Wall cloud 1 mile south of Clayton moving toward the northeast at 20 mph.

4:05 – Funnel cloud at 52 and Packard heading to the northeast.

Just remember TEL-TIME, EFFECTS, LOCATION.

If a SKYWARN net is not already in progress when threatening weather appears, by all means start one up. Contact your Emergency Coordinator or an Assistant EC, (via phone if necessary). He will take over the net as soon as possible. In the mean time, report any funnel clouds/tornadoes to Central Dispatch via 911.

Report Limitations

Funnel Cloud Aloft

Tornado Touchdown

(including direction and estimated speed of travel, if possible)

Cloud Rotations (Sustained)

Damaging Winds (Above 58 mph)

Large Hail (1/2 inch or larger)

Flooding in Progress

Any Damage from the above