



Storm Spotter Reference Sheet

What to Report	How to Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injuries/Fatalities • Damage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trees down (snapped or uprooted? diameter?) - Branches broken (diameter?) - Power poles down - Structural damage • Tornado (rotation? debris?) • Funnel Cloud (rotation?) • Wall Cloud (rotation?) • Hail (all sizes) • Wind Gusts (40 mph or greater) • Heavy rain (1" or more) • Unusual Water Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Floating/stalled cars - Water on roads (flowing? depth? trend?) - Unusual road closures - Flooded buildings - Mud or rock slides - Rapidly rising water 	<p>Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who you are (spotter number?) • Where you are • Where the weather occurred • When it occurred • What was observed <p>Report through your local spotter network. If the network is not active:</p> <p>Contact NWS direct via:</p> <p>Phone: Provided in training class</p> <p>Web: www.weather.gov/dvn ("Submit Storm Report")</p> <p>Ham Radio: WX1NWS</p> <p>Share pictures via:</p> <p>Facebook: NWSQuadCities</p> <p>Twitter: @NWSQuadCities</p>

Estimating Wind Speed (Beaufort Scale)	
25-31 mph	Large branches in motion, whistling in power lines
32-38 mph	Whole trees in motion
39-54 mph	Twigs break off trees, wind impedes walking
55-72 mph	Damage to chimneys and antennas, shallow-rooted trees blown over
73-112 mph	Peels surface off roof, windows broken, trailer houses overturned
113+ mph	Roofs off houses, weak buildings and trailer houses destroyed, big trees uprooted

Helpful Internet Links	
NWS Quad Cities	www.weather.gov/quadcities
NWS for Mobile Devices	mobile.weather.gov
Becoming a Storm Spotter	www.weather.gov/quadcities/spotters
Downloadable Spotter Guide	www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/SGJune6-11.pdf
Online Spotter Training Course	www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23
Online Radar Basics Course	www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=960
Radar (and Weather) Tutorials	www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream
CoCoRaHS Network	www.cocorahs.org
Iowa Environmental Mesonet	mesonet.agron.iastate.edu

Supercells: Step By Step

Step 1: Identify the updraft (and downdraft)

Step 2: Determine storm motion

Step 3: Make sure your location is safe

Step 4: Assess strength/potential

Step 5: Look for visible rotation in updraft

Step 6: { Watch downdraft for strong winds / hail
or watch updraft for rotating wall cloud / tornado

Step 7: Report critical information

