



Spotter Quick Reference Guide

National Weather Service Tallahassee, FL



CALL (850) 942-8833, EXT 9 OR CONTACT US ON SOCIAL MEDIA IF YOU SEE:

- ❖ **Tornadoes, Waterspouts, Funnel Clouds, or Wall Clouds**
- ❖ **Damaging winds;** “severe” level wind = 58mph or higher
- ❖ **Hail 1”** in diameter (quarter sized) or larger and any associated damage
- ❖ **Flash Flooding** – Is water flowing over roads or threatening life and property?
- ❖ Any damage that may be weather related, even after the event has ended

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR REPORT

- ❖ **WHO you are** – your name and that you’re a SKYWARN spotter
- ❖ **WHAT type of event** – Be as detailed as possible and include pictures if you can
- ❖ **WHERE you are** – Your location and the location of the event
- ❖ **WHEN did the event occur** – The start & end time or provide real time updates

IMPORTANT REFERENCE MATERIAL

WIND ESTIMATES

30 - 40 MPH	Whole trees in motion
40 - 50 MPH	Twigs or small branches breaking
50 - 60 MPH	Slight structural damage; Healthy branches breaking
60 - 70+ MPH	Down or snapped trees; Structural damage

HAIL SIZE ESTIMATES

Diameter	Description
0.25"	Pea
0.70"	Dime
0.75"	Penny
0.88"	Nickel
1.00"	Quarter
1.25"	Half Dollar
1.50"	Ping Pong Ball
1.75"	Golf Ball
2.00"	Hen Egg or Lime
2.50"	Tennis Ball
2.75"	Baseball
3.00"	Large Apple or Teacup
4.00"	Softball
5" or more	Probably some sort of record, freeze it and call the NWS!

IMPORTANT LINKS

- ❖ **NWS SKYWARN PAGE**
 - weather.gov/tae/taeskywarn
- ❖ **SKYWARN FIELD GUIDE**
 - goo.gl/itAHk7
- ❖ **NATIONAL SPOTTER NETWORK**
 - spotternetwork.org/
- ❖ **SIGN UP FOR WEATHER ALERTS**
 - alertflorida.com
- ❖ **BECOME A PRECIP OBSERVER**
 - cocorahs.org
- ❖ **BECOME AN AMBASSADOR**
 - weather.gov/tae/weatherreadynation
- ❖ **BASIC SPOTTER TEST**
 - goo.gl/kRIwBH
- ❖ **ADVANCED SPOTTER TEST**
 - goo.gl/Zp03kg

NWS CONTACT INFORMATION

- ❖ **FOCAL POINT: JUSTIN PULLIN**
 - justin.pullin@noaa.gov
- ❖ **WCM: MARK WOOL**
 - mark.wool@noaa.gov



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