



Severe Storm Spotting

NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, Lincoln IL

SKYWARN Spotter Sign-Up

To register with NWS Lincoln as a SKYWARN Spotter go to:

www.weather.gov/ilx/spotter



select "Spotter Resources" Tab, scroll down & click on the "SKYWARN" logo

- You must be at least 18 years of age
- We will cross-check your name on the sign-in sheet for the spotter class you attended

How to Make a

Severe Weather Report

If you observe severe weather please submit a report as SAFELY and as SOON as possible to one of the following:

- Local EMA (Emergency Management Agency) or ESDA
- Lincoln National Weather Service
 - Phone: 1-800-611-4570
 - E-mail: ilxspotter@noaa.gov
-  NWS Lincoln Facebook
www.facebook.com/NWSLincoln
-  NWS Lincoln Twitter Feed
[#NWSLincolnIL](https://twitter.com/NWSLincolnIL) [#ILwx](https://twitter.com/ILwx)
- Local law enforcement officials

What to Report

- Tornadoes, Funnel Clouds, Rotating Wall Clouds or ANY type of Rotation (See ID References on next page)
- Any injuries or fatalities due to weather
- Flooding / Heavy Rain
 - Rapidly rising creeks or rivers
 - Street flooding 6" or more in depth
 - Road Closures
 - Heavy rain accumulating at rates of 1.00" per hour or more
- High Wind or ANY Wind Damage (See Wind chart on next page)
 - Wind gusts 50 mph or more
 - Damage to structures
 - Damage to trees, power lines or power poles
- Large Hail (1.00" or greater)
 - See Hail Chart on next page
- Lightning Damage

On the web:

NWS Lincoln SKYWARN Spotter Page www.weather.gov/Lincoln/spotter
 NWS Lincoln Spotter Briefing Page www.weather.gov/Lincoln/spotter-brief
 Spotter's Field Guide www.weather.gov/media/ilx/Spotter_Training/Spotters_Guide_New.pdf
 Storm Prediction Center..... www.spc.noaa.gov
 Skywarn..... www.skywarn.org

Hail Size Description Chart



Description	Size	Description	Size	Description	Size	Description	Size
Pea	¼"	Quarter	1"	Billiard ball	2"	Softball	4"
"Half inch"	½"	Half Dollar	1 ¼"	Tennis Ball	2 ½"	Grapefruit	4 ½"
Penny	¾"	Ping Pong ball	1 ½"	Baseball	2 ¾"	CD/DVD	4 ¾"
Nickel	⅞"	Golf ball	1 ¾"	Large Apple	3"		

Wind Speed Estimation Chart

25-30 mph	Large tree branches moving.
30-40 mph	Whole trees moving. Some difficulty when walking into the wind.
40-50 mph	Small branches break off. (1" diameter or smaller)
50-65 mph	Medium size branches break off. (2-3" diameter)
65-80 mph	Roof shingles/gutters removed. Tree branches larger than 3" in diameter. Shallow rooted trees uprooted. Power lines blown down.
80 mph+	Outbuildings severely damaged or destroyed. Power poles leaning or snapped.

Cloud Identification Reference



A. Shelf Cloud

- Horizontal cloud on leading edge of a thunderstorm
- **Slopes AWAY from the rain.** Signals approach of gusty winds and heavy rain.

B. Wall Cloud (*Report these ASAP*)

- A **ROTATING** lowering in t-storm in area with little or no rain (updraft)
- Often precedes a funnel cloud/tornado. **Slopes DOWN and TOWARD the rain.**

C. Funnel Cloud (*Report these ASAP*)

- A **ROTATING column of air that is NOT in contact with the ground**
- Rapidly rotating **cloud edges are typically smooth** and not ragged

D. Tornado (*Report these ASAP*)

- A violently rotating column of air **IN CONTACT WITH THE GROUND**
- Look for debris or dust circulating at the ground to verify it has made contact

E. Scud Cloud

- Harmless, **ragged** looking clouds that **DO NOT ROTATE**
- May hang low to the ground and move up and down, changing shape rapidly