



Spotter Reference Guide

HOW TO REPORT

• Spotter Line –

1-800-808-0006
(answered 24/7)

Other methods:

• County Net

• **Packet Radio** –
K8DTX-5, 145.76 MHz

• **eSpotter** –
espotter.weather.gov/

On Reverse Side

Wind Scale 2

Hail Correlation 2

Winter Weather 2

NOAAs National Weather Service Detroit /Pontiac MI

WHAT TO REPORT

- Wind gusts to 40 MPH or greater (remember winds greater than 58 MPH are severe)
- Hail 1/2 inch in diameter or greater
- Tornadoes or funnel clouds
- Water that covers roads or threatens property
- Rainfall rates greater than an inch an hour
- Waterspouts
- Post storm damage (even if the storm has long passed)

Give an estimated time the event occurred.

OTHER NWS REQUIREMENTS

- When reporting either wind or hail, please tell us whether it is **Measured** or **Estimated**.
- We need the location of where the event occurred.
Distance and direction from nearest town or
Major street intersections
- Latitude and Longitude can also be used (if you have that information available).

WEB SITES OF INTEREST...

www.weather.gov/dtx (Detroit/Pontiac NWS Homepage)

www.spc.noaa.gov (Storm Prediction Center)

www.ready.gov (Storm Preparedness)

www.weather.gov/dtx/spottraining/ (Skywarn Presentation)



WIND SCALE

MPH	Description
25-31	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telephone wires
32-38	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt in walking in the wind
39-54	Twigs break off trees; wind generally impedes progress
55-72	Damage to chimneys, TV antennas; pushes over shallow rooted trees
73-112	Peels surfaces off roofs; windows broken; light mobile homes Overturned; moving cars pushed off road
113-157	Roofs torn off houses; cars lifted off ground

HAIL CORRELATION

Pea	0.25 inch	Half Dollar	1.25 inches	Baseball	2.75 inches
Plain M&M	0.50 inch	Ping Pong	1.50 inches	Large Apple	3.00 inches
Penny	0.75 inch	Golf Ball	1.75 inches	Softball	4.00 inches
Nickel	0.88 inch	Lime	2.00 inches	Grapefruit	4.50 inches
Quarter	1.00 inch	Tennis Ball	2.50 inches	CD/DVD	4.75/5 inches

4 SEASON REPORTING (WINTER WEATHER)

- Snow—Report when 1st inch has fallen, each additional 2 inches, storm total and 12 hour totals ending 7 am/pm
- Rain—Report amounts of an inch or greater in 24 hours
- Freezing Rain and Sleet— Estimate the amount of glazing (ie 1/10 inch, 1/4 inch, 1/2 inch)
- Flooding and Ice Jams
- Non Thunderstorm Wind Gusts of 40 MPH or Greater or Damage Caused by Strong Winds
- Fog—Report when visibility reaches 1/4 mile or lower