

Severe Weather Guidelines- *(Winter guidelines on back of sheet)*

| Type of Event | When to Call | NWS Warning Criteria/Additional Information |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Funnel Cloud/Wall Cloud | Always | <i>Look for organized, persistent, sustained rotation</i> |
| Tornado | Always - Also call 911 | Tornado Warning issued. <i>Look for debris on the ground</i> |
| Hail | 1/2" diameter or larger. Report the most representative and largest size. | Severe Thunderstorm Warning issued: <i>1 inch diameter or greater.</i> |
| Wind Gusts | 50 mph or higher | Severe Thunderstorm Warning issued. <i>Sustained 40 mph. Gusts to 58 mph. Specify estimate or measured</i> |
| Heavy Rain | 1.0" rain/hr or greater for urban areas 1.5" rain/hr or greater for rural areas. Also, call 911 for flooding. | Flash Flood Warning issued. <i>Flooding that impacts roads, homes or businesses.</i> <i>Fire Burn areas: ~0.5-.75" rain/hr or less</i> |
| Storm Damage | Always. | Damage to structures (roof, siding, windows, etc) Damage to vehicles (from hail or wind) Trees or large limbs down Power/telephone poles or lines down Damage to farm equipment, machinery, etc |

Some commonly used hail sizes

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Pea | .25 inch | Golf Ball | 1.75 inch |
| mothball | .50 inch | Hen Egg | 2.00 inch |
| Penny | .75 inch | Tennis Ball | 2.50 inch |
| Nickel | .88 inch | Baseball | 2.75 inch |
| Quarter | 1.00 inch | Tea Cup | 3.00 inch |
| Half Dollar | 1.25 inch | Softball | 4.00 inch |
| Ping Pong Ball | 1.50 inch | Grapefruit | 4.50 inch |

General Guidelines for Estimating Wind Speeds

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 30-44 mph (26-39 kt) | Whole trees in motion. Inconvenient walking into the wind. Light-weight loose objects (e.g., lawn furniture) tossed or toppled. |
| 45-57 mph (39-49 kt) | Large trees bend; twigs, small limbs break and a few larger dead or weak branches may break. Old/weak structures (e.g., sheds, barns) may sustain minor damage (roof, doors). Buildings partially under construction may be damaged. A few loose shingles removed from houses. |
| 58-74 mph (50-64 kt) | Large limbs break; shallow rooted trees pushed over. Semi-trucks overturned. More significant damage to old/weak structures. Shingles, awnings removed from houses; damage to chimneys and antennas. |
| 75-89 mph (65-77 kt) | Widespread damage to trees with large limbs down or trees broken/uprooted. Mobile homes may be pushed off foundation or overturned. Roof may be partially peeled off industrial/commercial/ warehouse buildings. Some minor roof damage to homes. Weak structures (e.g., farm buildings, airplane hangars) may be severely damaged. |
| 90+ mph (78+ kt) | Many large trees broken and uprooted. Mobile homes damaged. Roofs partially peeled off homes and buildings. Moving automobiles pushed off the road. Barns, sheds demolished. |

General Winter Guidelines for Spotter Reporting

1-800-287-2498 (toll free)

303-494-2884 (Denver area)

***Check Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO)/Spotter Activation Statement daily for additional guidelines

| Type of Event | When to Call | NWS Warning Local Criteria/Additional Information |
|---|--|---|
| Heavy Snow | 1" snowfall per hour or greater or per HWO guidelines | 6" or more in 12 hrs or 8" in 24 hrs (plains) 8" or more in 12 hrs or 12" in 24 hrs (mountains) |
| Blizzard | Winds 35mph or greater Visibility less than 1/4 mile in snow and/or blowing snow | Sustained/Frequent gusts 35 mph or more for 3 hours Visibilities < 1/4 mile for 3 hours Considerable blowing/drifted snow |
| Storm Totals | 12/24 hr snowfall/snow depth By 8 am/8 pm or when snow has stopped. | <i>Take average of 5 measurements if drifting has occurred and measure to nearest tenth of an inch.</i> |
| High Winds | 50 mph or higher-sustained or Gusts. (specify estimate or measured) | Lower elevations: Sustained 40 mph. Gusts 58 mph or more: Mountains: Sustained 50 mph. Gusts 75 mph or more |
| Dense Fog | Visibilities: 1/4 mile or less | Dense Fog Advisory |
| Freezing Drizzle Adverse Road Conditions Rain vs. Snow | Freezing drizzle: Road surfaces become icy and slick. Impassable roads/road closures. Changeover from rain to snow and vice versa. | |