

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

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

Report via Denver ARES Net Control

***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.	