

Please include the following items
in ALL of your SKYWARN Reports:

- **WHO:** Identify yourself as a SKYWARN SPOTTER (your Name - plus Callsign if Amateur Radio Operator).
- **WHERE:** Report your county and state, and position relative to a known town/landmark ("Seven miles west of Galax"). If the event is not occurring where you are, report your position relative to the event/storm ("Looking three miles north of my location"). If applicable, report the movement and speed of the event being observed.
- **WHAT:** Describe the event/storm (see reporting criteria on the other side of this brochure).
- **WHEN:** Report the exact time of the event/storm, duration of the event, and if the event is still in progress.

SPOTTER RULES AND CLUES

- **ALWAYS** have a safe place nearby to protect yourself from lightning, hail, and wind-blown debris.
- Vehicles are a safe place from lightning and hail but **NOT** from tornadoes.
- **Moving water is powerful!** It only takes a slight current to push a vehicle off the road.
- Overshooting tops are an indicator of a very strong storm.
- The first gust of wind to reach you from a thunderstorm is frequently the strongest.
- A rain free base denotes the storm's updraft area, a place to watch closely.
- Wall Clouds form on the rain free base often 15 to 20 minutes before a tornado forms.
- Large hail often falls just in advance of a tornado, especially large tornadoes.
- Tornadoes usually form in the trailing edge of a thunderstorm.
- Tornadoes generally move toward the northeast at 25 to 35 mph when associated with fronts and squall lines but they can travel as fast as 70 mph.

WX4RNK

NWS BLACKSBURG SKYWARN TEAM

www.blacksburgskywarn.org

NWS Blacksburg Amateur Radio Repeaters

- **W4YSB - Ashe County - Phoenix Mountain**
Frequency: 147.300 +600 Tone: 103.5
- **K4ITL - Level Cross - Asheboro**
Frequency: 147.255 +600 Tone: 82.5
- **WA1ZMS - Bedford - Apple Orchard Mountain**
Frequency: 146.685 -600 Tone: 100.0
- **WA4HTI - Covington - Bald Knob**
Frequency: 146.805 -600 Tone: None
- **K4EZ - Fancy Gap - Beemers Knob**
Frequency: 147.045 +600 Tone: 103.5
Linked To Big Walker Mountain
- **N4VL - Galax - Fisher Peak**
Frequency: 145.130 -600 Tone: 103.5
- **KI4ZR - Lexington - Rocky Knob**
Frequency: 147.330 +600 Tone: 131.8
- **KC4TJY - New Castle - Potts Mountain**
Frequency: 147.210 +600 Tone: None
- **W4CA - Roanoke - Poor Mountain - NWS Secondary**
Frequency: 146.985 -600 Tone: 107.2
- **K4ROA - Roanoke - Poor Mountain - NWS Primary**
Frequency: 146.745 -600 Tone: 107.2
- **W4BJF - Rockingham County**
Frequency: 147.030 +600 Tone: None
- **WB3T & W4VSP - Wytheville - Big Walker Mountain**
Frequency: 146.895 -600 Tone: 103.5

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

When acting as a SKYWARN Spotter always remember **YOUR SAFETY is MOST IMPORTANT!**

During a thunderstorm with lightning, stay in your covered vehicle with the windows up and door shut.

DO NOT TRY to OUTFRAN a TORNADO in your vehicle!

Get out of the vehicle and curl up into a ball in a ditch or ravine in a location that will be as free of flying debris as you can, but be aware of localized flooding. Keep your head covered and eyes closed.

Above all else, **Use Common Sense** and **DON'T TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS!**

NEVER PLACE YOURSELF IN ANY DANGER

when reporting severe weather!

We **NEED YOU** and **THANK YOU** for Your Help!



SKYWARN

**NWS Blacksburg
SKYWARN**

Pocket Spotter Guide



National Weather Service
Weather Forecast Office Blacksburg
1750 Forecast Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 552-0084

www.weather.gov/blacksburg

WHAT TO REPORT

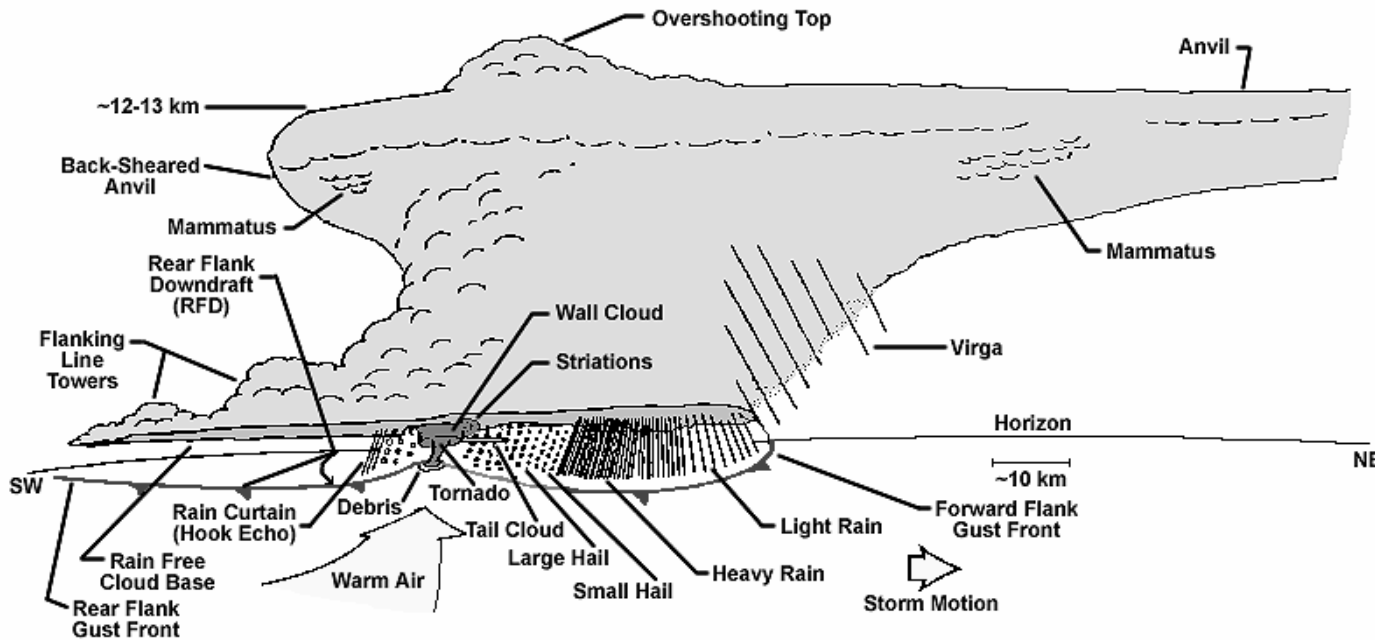
REPORT OBSERVATIONS

NOT INTERPRETATIONS

- Funnel Clouds
- Tornadoes
- Wall Clouds (confirmed or suspected)
- Mama Clouds (mammatus)
- Roll Clouds
- Shelf Clouds
- Report ANY KIND of Thunderstorm Activity during the Winter Months
- Downburst Winds
- Wind Damage to Buildings & Trees
- Wind Speeds of 35 mph or Greater
- In Non-Thunderstorm Events, Report Winds in Excess of 50 mph or Greater
- Hailstones of Any Size

Measure if possible, report largest size seen, most common size, and depth of coverage. For size reference, use the table on the left.

- Lightning Strikes to People and Animals
- Lightning Strikes Causing Building Damage
- Flooded Streets
- Standing Water in Buildings
- Water Over the Banks of Creeks and Streams
- Rainfall Rates of One (1) Inch Per Hour or Greater
 - Depth of standing water (if possible)
 - Actual rainfall rate (if possible)
 - Rainfall totals at the end of a storm event
- Snow Accumulation of Three (3) Inches - Snowfall Rates of One (1) Inch Per Hour - or Greater
 - Depth of snow and actual snowfall rate (if possible)
 - Snowfall totals at the end of a storm event
- Icing
 - Report any ice accumulation (accretion)
 - Measure or estimate thickness of accumulation
- Weather-Related Personal Injury
 - Advise Local Law Enforcement FIRST! Report what person was doing, age, sex, and cause of injury.
- Any Other Pertinent Reports that may be regarded as a Threat to Life and Property, including power outages.



HAIL DIA	DESCRIPTION	HAIL DIA	DESCRIPTION
1/4"	Pea Size	1/2"	Dime Size
3/4"	Penny Size	1"	Quarter Size
1 1/4"	Half Dollar Size	1 1/2"	Walnut or Ping Pong Ball Size
1 3/4"	Golf Ball Size	2"	Hen Egg Size
2 1/2"	Tennis Ball Size	Or Report Actual Measurement	

ALWAYS IDENTIFY YOURSELF as a SKYWARN SPOTTER

ALWAYS Record and Report the **TIME & LOCATION** of your observation

The **NWS BLACKSBURG** toll-free number is **800-221-2856** or report via the internet at <http://spotter.weather.gov/>

If you're a amateur radio operator and a **SKYWARN net** has been activated in your county, report observations to your **Net Control Station**.

If a **SKYWARN net** has not been activated or you're not a radio amateur, report observations by phone to your local emergency management office, law enforcement agency, or the National Weather Service.

The **General Public** should contact their local emergency management or law enforcement agency during times of severe weather, **NOT** the **National Weather Service**. Please **advise agency to relay the report** to the National Weather Service **as soon as possible!**

