

# THE STORM

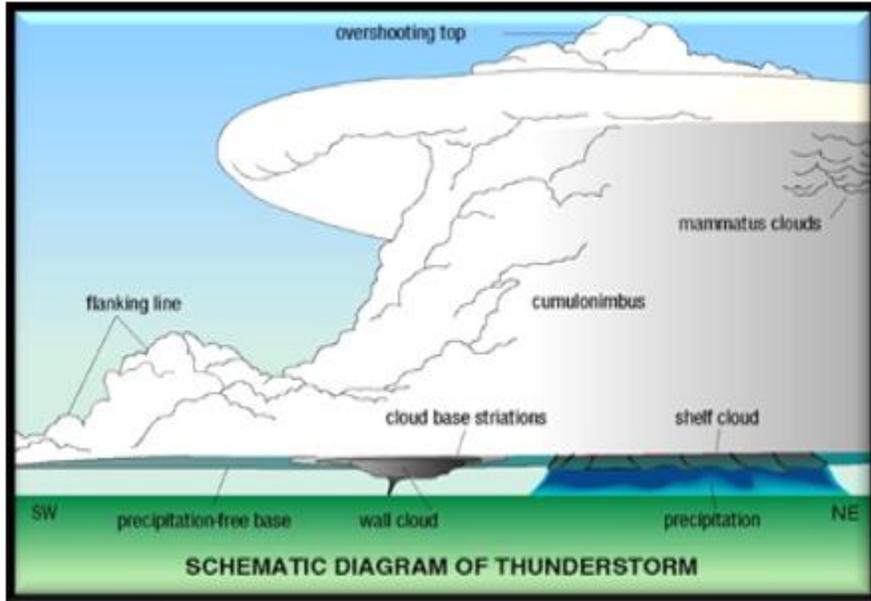
Fort Worth, Texas

National Weather Service

WEATHER.GOV/FORTWORTH



# SPOTTER CHECKLIST



## SUPERCELLS

### Low Level Clues

- Rain-free base
- Warm, moist air flowing into the storm (inflow)
- Inflow bands
- Shelf Cloud

### Mid & Upper Level Clues

- Crisp, cauliflower texture to updraft

## SHELF CLOUDS

- Slope down and away from rain
- Changes position with respect to the rain (can move far ahead of the rain)
- Found near the front or middle of the storm

## WALL CLOUDS

- Are usually pronounced features
- Slope down and towards rain
- Maintain their position with respect to the rain (moves along with the rain)
- Form under a smooth, flat updraft base

## IS THE TORNADO THREAT INCREASING?

- Rounded updraft tower
- Striations (mid-level cloud bands)
- Circular updraft base
- Increasing spin in wall cloud / cloud base
- Increased inflow
- Rapid vertical motions near wall cloud
- Clear slot formation
- Rain burst develops behind the wall cloud or a rain curtain surrounds the wall cloud

## Wind Speed Estimation

**32-38 mph:** Whole trees in motion. Some resistance when walking.

**39-46 mph:** Twigs and small branches (1-3" diameter) broken off of trees.

**47-54 mph:** Chimney covers and roof tiles blown off. TV antennas damaged. Lots of twig and branch damage.

**55-63 mph:** Roof damage begins. Small trees blown over or uprooted.

**64-75 mph:** Widespread damage occurs. Large trees up rooted or blown over.

**75-112 mph:** Severe and extensive damage. Roofs peeled off. Windows broken. RVs and small mobile homes overturned. Moving cars pushed off roads.

# When In Doubt, Report It!

## Tornadoes, Funnel Clouds, and Rotating Wall Clouds

Report:

- Time
- Location
- Confirmed or Suspected?
- Damage (if applicable)

Example:

- "At 4:15pm, a possible tornado ripped roofs off of multiple homes near Interstate 20 and Park Springs Road in southwest Arlington."

## Hail 3/4" or Larger

Report:

- Time
- Location
- Size (measured or estimated)
- Damage (if applicable)

Pea	0.25"
Plain M&M	0.50"
Penny	0.75"
Nickel	0.88"
Quarter	1.00"
Half Dollar	1.25"
Ping Pong Ball	1.50"
Golf Ball	1.75"
Lime	2.00"
Tennis Ball	2.50"
Baseball	2.75"
Grapefruit	4.00"

Example:

- "Golf ball size hail was falling in downtown Dallas near the corner of Elm and Houston Streets at 2:50pm."

## How to Report

1. **Social Media** is always a good way to reach us.

X/Twitter: @NWSFortWorth  
#dfwwx  
#fwdspotter

Facebook: @NWSDallasFortWorth

2. **Call us!** 1-800-792-2257
3. **Email us** @ [sr-fwd.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-fwd.webmaster@noaa.gov) during or after events

## Winds 50 mph or Greater

Report:

- Time
- Location
- Speed (if measured)
- Damage (if applicable)
  - Buildings
    - Type of building
    - Extent of damage
    - Shingles off or part of roof missing?
  - Trees
    - Tree branches or tree trunks?
    - Type and health of tree
    - Size of branches/trunks damaged

Remember: Winds over 60 mph should be associated with some type of damage.

Example:

- "At 9:20pm, strong winds snapped several trees over 6" in diameter in McGregor."

## Flooding and Rainfall Amounts

Report:

- Time
- Location
- Extent
- Flooding depth
- How often does this area flood
- Rain amounts

Examples:

- "Corinth Street in Dallas was closed 5 minutes ago (1:00am) due to flooding on Cedar Creek."
- "At 4:00pm we received 0.85" of rainfall within the last hour 2 miles north of Fairfield."

Storm  
Spotters  
Dictionary

