

Info To Know

Hazardous Weather Outlook: Local NWS seven day outlook identifying severe potential in the coming days. *Spotters Check daily.*

Weather Watch: www.spc.noaa.gov
A Watch is issued when conditions become favorable for severe weather. *Spotters should prepare to activate.*

Weather Warning:
A Warning is issued when severe weather is occurring or is imminent based on National Weather Service Doppler radar or spotter reports. *Spotters report weather or damage info to NWS and local officials.*

Receiving Weather Information

Smart phone – wireless alerts. See:
<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/wea>

NWS forecasts on your phone
<https://mobile.weather.gov/>

NWS on the Internet
<https://www.weather.gov/ind/>

Text Alerts: NWS Alerts and warnings as RSS, XML, REST, CAP feeds.
<https://www.weather.gov/enterprise/>

NOAA Weather Radio:
<https://www.weather.gov/ind/nwr>



Spotter Reporting

Some groups have special reporting needs. See your spotter group or County Emergency Mgmt.

NWS IND phone contact (Spotters only):
1-800-499-2133 or 317-856-0359

Email reports and photos:
nws.indianapolis@noaa.gov

Follow us and send reports/photos to our Facebook or Twitter accounts by using @NWSIndianapolis
We monitor #INWX and #NWSIND

Include in Reports:

- ☞ **Who** you are
- ☞ **What** you observed
- ☞ **Where** the event occurred:
Exact location; county; GPS Lat Lon
- ☞ **When** the event occurred
- ☞ **Damage** that you witnessed

What to Report (Don't Assume):

- ☞ Tornadoes or funnel clouds
- ☞ Rotating wall clouds
- ☞ Hail (1/2" or larger)
- ☞ Winds (40+ mph) tell us:
estimated or measured
- ☞ Flooding
- ☞ Weather causing death or injury



National Weather Service
Indianapolis



Information for Severe Weather Spotters

National Weather Service
Indianapolis, Indiana



For more information contact:

National Weather Service
6900 West Hanna Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46241

nws.indianapolis@noaa.gov

<https://www.weather.gov/ind/spotter>

Spotter Tips

Safety first: stay out of harm's way

Lightning spot inside when bolts fly

Hail: Don't report "marbles" for size - use coins; better yet, measure its diameter.

Tornadoes Watch for rotation or moving debris on the ground. Watch radar loops to determine storm direction. The best position to view a storm is outside the rain looking north or northwest toward the storm.

Squall lines are often preceded by a **shelf clouds**. Uplifting air in front of a shelf cloud can create finger-like features in the shelf that are funnel-like and called **SCUD**: Beware; funnels rotate, SCUD doesn't.

Supercells produce shelf clouds both at the forward and rear flanks yielding downburst winds of varying strength.

Supercell **updrafts**, rearward of the forward flanks rain shaft, often develop a wall cloud, the isolated lowering in the rain-free updraft cloud base.

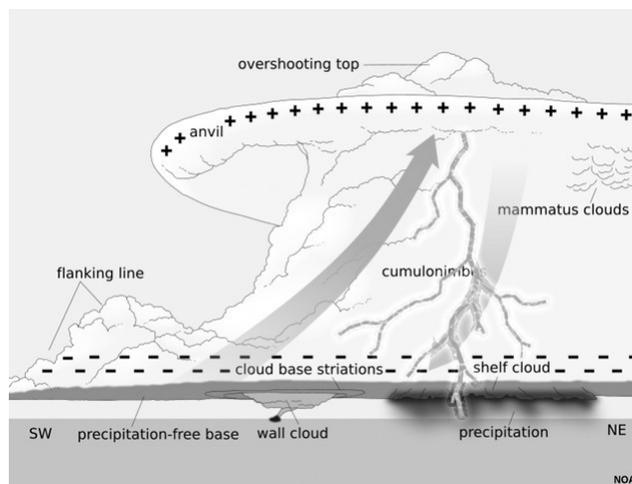
Wall Clouds are typically cylindrical and to be significant, exhibit organized and sustained rotation about a vertical axis. The wall cloud precedes a funnel and is near the clearing slot before a tornado forms.

Report accurately; a **tornado** is a violently rotating column of air in contact with the ground. A **funnel cloud** is a violently rotating column of air not reaching the ground and not causing damage. Be observant – sometimes there is no visible connection between the cloud and the ground; if debris is spiraling upward, it's a tornado.

Estimating Wind Speed

Most wind damage from thunderstorms is caused by straight-line winds (also known as "downbursts"). When reporting wind speed, remember to include whether the report was measured or estimated, and describe any damage. If you cannot measure the wind speed, use the table below:

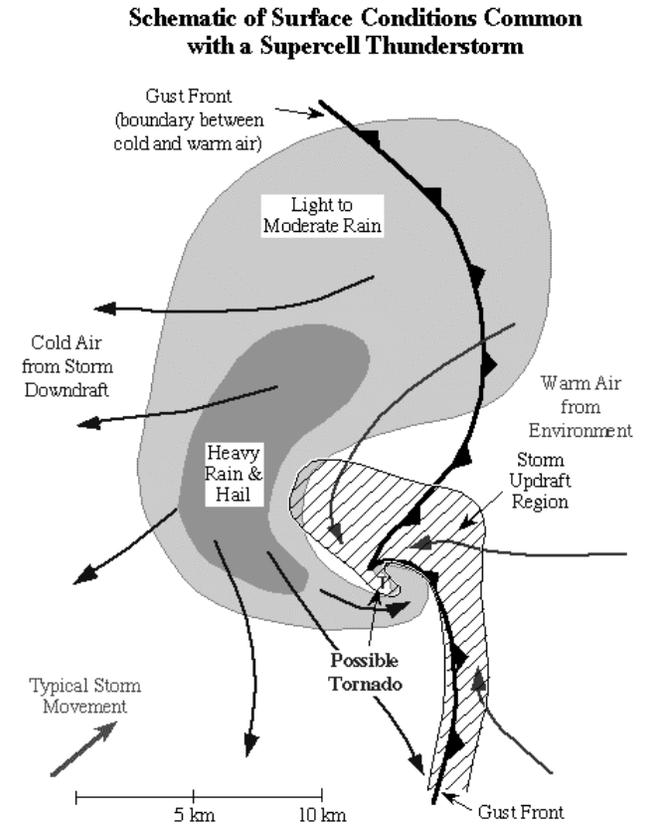
- 25-30 mph: large branches move.
- 30-40 mph: whole trees move.
- 40-45 mph: small branches break; walking impeded.
- 45-55 mph: larger branches and weak limbs may break; slight structural damage occurs.
- 55-65 mph: moderate structural and tree damage occur.
- 65 mph + : heavy to severe structural and tree damage occur.



Supercell Schematic

Supercell Thunderstorms

Supercells are always severe, often with tornadoes, large hail, and intense straight-line winds. The best position to view wall cloud and tornadoes are on the inflow side which is typically to the east or south side of the storm; or perhaps view from its rear side as it's moving away. Always ensure you are in a safe place when viewing and have ways to escape if you are mobile.



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