

Metro Skywarn Class Notes

Step by Step Spotting:

Step 1: Identify the updraft and downdraft

- Are you in the updraft or downdraft?
- If updraft, do you see a wall cloud? Is it rotating? Any funnel clouds/tornadoes?

Step 2: Assess strength/potential

- Does the storm appear to be strengthening? Wall clouds spinning faster? Inflow winds stronger?
- Think ahead – what comes after the feature I'm looking at?

Step 3: Determine storm motion and safety of your location

- Are you in the path? Are you safe?
- Do you have any hazardous things around you? (i.e. power lines, dead end streets?)
- Are you looking all around you? 360°

Step 4: Report critical information

- Is my report on the list of reportable conditions?
- Am I sure of what I'm looking at?
- Watch it for a minute if unsure.