

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.

Submit a report via the web:

If you don't have a ham radio license or the net is not up, you may submit a report via the web.

<https://www.weather.gov/mpx/>.

Select Current Hazards > Submit a Storm Report > Submit Report

- Include your Metro Skywarn ID OR your Skywatcher id in the Spotter ID section.

○ Examples:

- ✦ MSW #1234 (Metro Skywarn Spotter)
- ✦ Anoka Z-34 (Skywatcher ID)
- ✦ MSW – 2020 (Awaiting your Skywatcher ID – include “MSW – “ and the year)

- Location – be specific – include city/suburb, major cross streets, GPS coordinates

Links:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/metroskywarn>

Facebook: Open for Posts: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TwinCitiesMetroSkywarn/>

Official Announcements: <https://www.facebook.com/metroskywarn>

Storm Prediction Center: <https://www.spc.noaa.gov>

National Weather Service: <https://www.weather.gov/mpx/>

<https://www.facebook.com/NWSTwinCities>

Subscribe to MSWInfo at https://webhosting2036.is.cc/mailman/listinfo/mswinfo_metroskywarn.org

Subscribe to MSWAlert at https://webhosting2036.is.cc/mailman/listinfo/mswalert_metroskywarn.org

Café Press - <https://www.cafepress.com/profile/metroskywarn>

Weather Education Training

[Approaching Storm Guide](#)
[Basic Ingredients for Thunderstorm Activity](#)
[Reporting Guide Rev T](#)
[Metro Skywarn Report Scripts](#)
[Spotter Field Toolkit](#)
[Spotter Glossary \(NWS\)](#)

Publications and Additional Training:

Spotter Guide - [https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11\(1\).pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11(1).pdf)

Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Lightning - https://www.weather.gov/media/bis/TStorms_Tor_Lightning.pdf

Other Publications - https://www.weather.gov/owlie/publication_brochures

Minnesota Severe Storms Conference - <http://mnssc.org/>

COMET - www.meted.ucar.edu

Spotter Network - <http://www.spotternetwork.org/>

University of Illinois [http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/\(Gh\)/home.rxml](http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/(Gh)/home.rxml)

NWS, Norman, OK Advanced Spotter Training - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bl3l2P3z0Bc>