

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.

<http://www.weather.gov/twincities>. 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 from Presentation:

Metro Skywarn: <http://www.metroskywarn.org/> Twitter: <http://twitter.com/metroskywarn>

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

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

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

National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov/twincities> www.facebook.com/NWSTwinCities

Subscribe to MSWInfo: <http://www.metroskywarn.org> then scroll down to MSW Info List and click the button

Subscribe to MSWAlert: <http://www.metroskywarn.org> then scroll down to MSW Alert List and click the button

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

MSW Reporting Scripts - <https://metroskywarn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Metro-Skywarn-Report-Scripts-V2-2019.pdf>

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 - <https://www.facebook.com/mnstormcon/>

COMET - www.meted.ucar.edu

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

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

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

Other Items of Interest:

Approaching the Storm - <https://metroskywarn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Approaching-Storm-Guide.pdf>

Basic Ingredients - <https://metroskywarn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Basic-Ingredients-for-Thunderstorm-Activity.pdf>

Metro Skywarn Spotter Field Toolkit - <https://metroskywarn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/SPOTTER-FIELD-TOOLKIT.pdf>

NWS Spotter Glossary - <https://www.weather.gov/oun/spotterglossary>