

Metro Skywarn Class Notes

upd 3/25

Available digitally on MetroSkywarn.org > Resources > Metro Skywarn Class Notes

Updrafts & Downdrafts

- Are you in the updraft or downdraft?
- If updraft, do you see a wall cloud? Is it rotating? Any funnel clouds/tornadoes?
- If storm is linear, do you see any “kinks” along the leading edge suggesting a QLCS storm?
- 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?

Assess your safety and storm motion

- 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°

Report what you see

- 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 – 2025 (Awaiting your Skywatcher ID – include “MSW – “ and the year)

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

Links from Presentation:

Metro Skywarn: <http://www.metroskywarn.org/>

IG: <https://www.instagram.com/metroskywarn/?hl=en>

X/Twitter: <http://X.com/metroskywarn>

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

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

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

Training Questions Email: Training@MetroSkywarn.org YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@metroskywarn>

MSW Reporting Scripts - <https://metroskywarn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Metro-Skywarn-Report-Scripts-V3-2024.pdf>

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

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

NWS X/Twitter: www.X.com/nwstwincities

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

www.facebook.com/NWSTwinCities

Events: <https://www.weather.gov/mkx/FebruarySevereWeather> <https://www.weather.gov/mpx/HistoricStormDecember2021>

<https://www.weather.gov/mpx/August29TornadoesandWind>

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

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)

Additional Training: Youtube: “Spotter Training” NWS Duluth or Milwaukee play lists

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>