

Weather Spotters: **What and When to Report**

Two ways to report: By PHONE or ONLINE (version 2022)

1. Spotter phone number: **1-800-240-3022**. We are here 24/7/365
2. **weather.gov/sandiego** - click on **“Submit Report”** under **Current Hazards tab** or from SKYWARN page <http://swskywarn.org/>
<https://inws.ncep.noaa.gov/report/> (use **this form**) or report on MPING app

Flooding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rainfall: How much rain in a given time (e.g., 1 inch in 20 minutes). <i>Rainfall rates (e.g, 4 inches per hour) should not be reported</i>• <i>Flooding: urban streets, ponding of water in low lying areas or poor drainage</i>• Flash Flooding (swift moving and greater than 6 inches). Report flooding that is threatening life or property or disrupting traffic.
Winter Weather <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Snowfall amount (new,duration, total). Snow depth and total to the nearest INCH• Elevation of snow level, heavy snow and blizzard conditions• Icy roads, road closures, chain control, unusually low temperatures and wind chills
Wind <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gust of > 35 mph, and all wind related damage (e.g., trees, branches or power poles down)
Extreme Heat <ul style="list-style-type: none">• >95 F near the coast, >105 F in the inland valleys, >115 F in the deserts
Fog <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dense fog with visibility is at or near zero (report in feet or miles or impacts)
Thunderstorms <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hail size (for larger hail compare to coins or measure) and accumulation, wind gusts, lightning strikes causing fire, any damage
Tornadoes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funnel clouds, waterspouts or any rotating cloud, in contact with ground (tornado) and confirmed injuries or damage
Surf and Coastal Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surf 6 feet or higher, any flooding by combination of high tides and/or high surf• Strong rip currents• Tidal overflow and flooding or tsunami impacts such as strong currents

Visit Southwest California Skywarn on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/swskywarn>

PHOTOS: Send to alexander.tardy@noaa.gov or nwssgxspotters@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NWSSanDiego>

Twitter: [@NWSSanDiego](#) #cawx #wxreport #social

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/NWSSanDiego>

Field Guide to Observing Weather

Estimating Winds

15-20 mph: Raises dust and loose paper; small branches moved

20-25 mph: Small trees begin to sway; whitecaps on water

25-30 mph: Large branches in motion; whistling in wires

30-40 mph: Whole trees in motion; difficulty walking against the wind

40-45 mph: Breaks twigs of trees; impedes progress

45-55 mph: Breaks small tree branches; slight structural damage possible

55-65 mph: Breaks large tree branches; pushes over shallow rooted trees; considerable structural damage to chimneys, TV antennas (**Severe Thunderstorm winds are defined as 58 mph or higher**)

65-75 mph: Widespread damage

>75 mph: Severe damage and destruction

Hail Size (measure hail size or compare to coins)

1/4 inch = Pea size

1/2 inch = Mothball size (do not report as marble size)

3/4 inch = Penny or Dime size

1 inch = Quarter size (Severe Thunderstorms are issued for 1 inch hail or higher)

1 3/4 inch = Golf ball size

2 3/4 inch = Baseball size

Definitions

Tornado or Landspout (NWS determines the intensity EF scale for each tornado)

A violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm and in contact with the ground

Funnel Cloud or Wall Cloud

A rotating, funnel-shaped or low cloud base, extending from a thunderstorm base ***not*** in contact with the ground

Waterspout

A small, relatively weak rotating column of air in contact with the ocean or other large body of water

Downburst or Microburst (dry and wet straight-line wind will be investigated by NWS)

A strong downdraft from a thunderstorm, with an outrush of strong wind on or near the ground

SAFETY FIRST! Do not endanger yourself or others

Thank you for being a weather spotter! Your reports may be used in NWS Advisories or Warnings! The information you provide will be used for storm verification and improve future forecasts and warnings.