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 • Rainfall: How much rain in a given time (e.g., 1 inch in 20 minutes). *Rainfall rates (e.g, 4 inches per hour) should not be reported* • *Flooding: urban streets, ponding of water in low lying areas or poor drainage* • ***Flash Flooding (swift moving and greater than 6 inches).*** Report flooding that is threatening life or property or disrupting traffic.
Winter Weather • **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 • Gust of > 35 mph, and all wind related damage (e.g., trees, branches or power poles down)
Extreme Heat • >95 F near the coast, >105 F in the inland valleys, >115 F in the deserts
Fog • Dense fog with visibility is at or near zero (report in feet or miles or impacts)
Thunderstorms • Hail size (for larger hail compare to coins or measure) and accumulation, wind gusts, lightning strikes causing fire, any damage
Tornadoes • Funnel clouds, waterspouts or any rotating cloud, in contact with ground (tornado) and confirmed injuries or damage
Surf and Coastal Impacts • 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 #socal

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.