

Spotter Reference Guide – 2019

HOW TO REPORT

• Spotter Line:

[1-800-808-0006](tel:1-800-808-0006)

(Unlisted & Answered 24/7)

Other methods:

• Facebook:

[NWSDetroit](https://www.facebook.com/NWSDetroit)



• Twitter:

[@NWSDetroit](https://twitter.com/NWSDetroit)



• County Net

• Winlink:

K8DTX@winlink.org

• E-mail:

nwslidtx@noaa.gov

• Mobile App: MPing

<https://mping.nssl.noaa.gov/>

On Reverse Side

Wind Scale

Hail Correlation

4 Season Reporting

NOAA's National Weather Service Detroit/Pontiac MI

WHAT TO REPORT

- Wind gusts of 40 mph or greater
 - Remember winds greater than **58 mph** are severe
- Hail ½ inch diameter or greater
- Tornadoes, waterspouts, or funnel clouds
- Post-storm damage
 - Even if the storm has long passed
- Water that covers roads or threatens property
- Rainfall rates greater than 1 inch per hour

OTHER NWS REQUIREMENTS

- When reporting either wind or hail, please tell us whether it is **measured** or **estimated**.
- **Time** the event occurred (not what time you are reporting).
- **Location** of where the event occurred:
 - Distance and direction from nearest town or
 - Major street intersections or
 - Latitude and longitude (if available)

WEB SITES OF INTEREST...

www.weather.gov/dtx (NWS Detroit/Pontiac Homepage)

www.weather.gov/dtx/spot_train (Spotter Resources)

www.weather.gov/dtx/skywarncert (Skywarn Spotter Certificate)

www.spc.noaa.gov (NWS Storm Prediction Center)

www.ready.gov (Storm Preparedness)

www.weather.gov/owlie/publication_brochures (NWS Brouchures)

www.weather.gov/safety/ (NWS Safety Infographics)





WIND SCALE

MPH

Description

25-31	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telephone wires
32-38	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt walking through the wind
39-54	Twigs break off trees; wind generally impedes progress
55-72	Damage to chimneys, TV antennas; shallow-rooted trees toppled
73-112	Peels surfaces off roofs; windows broken; light mobile homes overturned; moving cars pushed off road
113-157	Roofs torn off houses; cars lifted off ground

Bold = Severe Warning Criteria

HAIL CORRELATION

Pea	0.25 inch	Half Dollar	1.25 inches	Baseball	2.75 inches
Plain M&M	0.50 inch	Ping Pong	1.50 inches	Large Apple	3.00 inches
Penny	0.75 inch	Golf Ball	1.75 inches	Softball	4.00 inches
Nickel	0.88 inch	Lime	2.00 inches	Grapefruit	4.50 inches
Quarter	1.00 inch	Tennis Ball	2.50 inches	CD/DVD	4.75/5 inches

4 SEASON REPORTING

- Snow — Report when first inch has fallen, each additional 2 inches, storm total, and 12 hour totals ending at 7 am/pm
- Rain — Report amounts of 1 inch or greater in 24 hours
- Freezing Rain / Sleet — Estimate the amount of glazing (i.e. ¼ inch, ½ inch)
- Flooding and Ice Jams — Water covering roads or threatening property
- Non-Thunderstorm Wind Gusts — 40+ mph or damage caused by strong winds
- Fog — Report when visibility reaches ¼ mile or lower



Send us your pictures and videos!

Post directly on our Facebook wall, tweet @NWSDetroit, or email nwslidtx@noaa.gov