2012 Weather Spotter Reporting Quick Reference Guide

Weather Status

Status	Issued	Repeater/Net Status
Advisory	When weather conditions impact our lives in ways that are not a direct threat to life and property but ignoring them may lead to hazardous conditions.	Green - Normal Mode Repeater operates normally.
Watch	To allow time for preparation and planning for weather threats.	Yellow - Restricted Mode Repeater operates normally. Keep conversations short and yield to net control station.
Warning	When a threat is occurring or imminent and action is needed to protect life and property.	Red - Directed Mode Repeater is only open for emergency traffic, severe reports, or questions about the storm.

How to Report

Time	The time you saw the event.
Event	What you saw according to reporting criteria.
Location	Where you saw the event. Include cross streets, municipality name, and any other useful information such as mile markets, etc.

Reporting Criteria

Urgent Concern	High Concern	Low/Moderate
• Tornado • Funnel Cloud • Rotating Wall Cloud • Flash Flooding • Damage to buildings or structures	• Hail 3/4” in diameter or larger (penny size) • Wind speed greater than 58 mph • Persistent non-rotating wall cloud • Rainfall 1” or more in one hour • A rapid rise of any river, creek, etc. • Snowfall amounts greater than 1” per hour or 35 MPH winds with ¼ mile or less visibility (blizzard)	• Hail less than ¾” in diameter • Wind speed 40 MPH and greater • Rain ¼” or greater in 15 min period • Water over the curb, blocking roads, affecting homes, businesses and roads • Cloud features suggesting storm organization and rotation • Other locally-defined criteria

Amateur Radio Frequencies of Interest

Use	Frequency	Comments
Northern Cook County Skywarn Reporting Repeater	147.345 MHz, Positive Offset PL: 107.2 Hz	Local Reporting Repeater
Northern Cook County Skywarn Backup Reporting Repeater	147.090 MHz, Positive Offset PL: 107.2 Hz	Backup Reporting Repeater Echolink Node 107690
FISHFAR Liaison Repeater	442.975 MHz, Positive Offset PL: 114.8 Hz	Chicago receive site. Regional Liaison Net - Should only be used if local net is unavailable.
FISHFAR Liaison Repeater	442.900 MHz, Positive Offset PL: 114.8 Hz	Schaumburg receive site. Regional Liaison Net - Should only be used if local net is unavailable.

Chicago/Romeoville National Weather Service Information

Telephone: +1-800-681-2972
Echolink Node: 293451
Web: http://www.weather.gov/chicago/

Northern Cook County Weather Radio Frequencies

These transmitters are in the Northern Cook County Skywarn coverage area. For a complete list of Chicagoland NOAA frequencies visit http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lot/?n=nwr

Frequency	Cal	Location	Use
162.425 MHz	KZZ-81	Lockport, IL	Land Based Forecasts - PRIMARY
162.500 MHz	KXI-41	Crystal Lake, IL	Land Based Forecasts
162.450 MHz	KZZ-76	Racine, WI	Land Based Forecasts
162.550 MHz	KWO-39	Chicago	Marine Forecasts - PRIMARY (Also broadcasts Land Based forecasts during severe weather)

Other Reporting Criteria

Courtesy Milwaukee County Skywarn (http://www.mke-skywarn.org/)

WINTER

DISRUPTION OF PRIMARY POWER AND PHONE SERVICE:
Defined as disruption to line-connected electrical service and line-connected phone service.

FLOODING:
Major structural damage, evacuations, river banks broken, water out of banks, roads, bridges, or railroads washed out. Water over curb, some water out of banks, some water on the roads

FOG CONDITIONS:
Defined as fog that produces visibility of less than ¼ mile in daylight.

HIGH SNOW FALL RATES:
Defined as rates exceeding 3" or more of snow every 6 hours. Include the measurement period as well (IE., "4.25 inches measured between 8am and 10:30am")

ICE ACCRETIONS:
Radial ice accumulations on trees branches, power lines, etc,

ICE DAMAGE:
Ice damage to buildings, structures and power lines.

ICE JAMS:
Disruption or diversion to normal river flow as a result of accumulated ice.

DAMAGE:
Significant damage to trees and power lines or other man-made objects.

STATE AND COUNTY HIGHWAY CLOSURES:
Due to snow or ice.

SUSTAINED WINDS & GUSTS 50 MPH OR GREATER
Indicate if "Measured" with instrument or "Estimated".

THUNDER-SNOW:
Thunder heard in the presence of snow storm.

WHITEOUT CONDITIONS:
Wind driven snow that results in zero or near-zero visibility in daylight.

SUMMER

TORNADOES

WATERSPOUTS

FUNNEL CLOUDS
Be sure of your observation!

WALL CLOUDS
Be sure of your observation!

DAMAGE:
Roof or wall materials damaged/collapsed/ missing. Uprooted trees, large limbs, light poles, mobile homes, buildings, tree branches, direct lightning, downed power lines.

HIGH WINDS:
40+ MPH Wind gusts.
Indicate if "Measured" with instrument or "Estimated".

HAIL:
3/4 Inch, Penny Size.
Indicate if "Measured" with instrument or "Estimated".

FLOODING:
Major structural damage, evacuations, river banks broken, water out of banks, roads, bridges, or railroads washed out. Water over curb, some water out of banks, some water on the roads.

RAINFALL:
1/4 inch or more with a 15 minute period.
Include starting and ending time of your measurement

VISIBILITY:
When less than 1/2 mile from rain or blowing dirt.