

# 2024 Spotter Reference Guide

## 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](mailto:K8DTX@winlink.org)

#### • E-mail:

[nws.detroit@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.detroit@noaa.gov)

#### • Mobile App: MPing

[mping.nssl.noaa.gov](https://mping.nssl.noaa.gov)

### How to Report Website:



## On Reverse Side

Wind Scale

Hail Correlation

4 Season Reporting

## National Weather Service Detroit/Pontiac MI

## WHAT TO REPORT

- Wind gusts of 40 mph or greater
  - Severe Criteria: Winds to **58 mph or greater**
- Hail ½ inch diameter or greater
  - Severe Criteria: Hail to **1 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 LINKS OF INTEREST...

[www.weather.gov/dtx](https://www.weather.gov/dtx) (NWS Detroit/Pontiac Homepage)

[www.weather.gov/dtx/spot\\_train](https://www.weather.gov/dtx/spot_train) (Spotter Resources)

[www.weather.gov/dtx/skywarncert](https://www.weather.gov/dtx/skywarncert) (Skywarn Spotter Certificate)

[www.weather.gov/crh/stormreports?sid=dtx](https://www.weather.gov/crh/stormreports?sid=dtx) (How to Report)

[www.spc.noaa.gov](https://www.spc.noaa.gov) (NWS Storm Prediction Center)

[www.ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) (Storm Preparedness)

[www.weather.gov/owlie/publication\\_brochures](https://www.weather.gov/owlie/publication_brochures) (NWS Brochures)

[www.weather.gov/safety/](https://www.weather.gov/safety/) (NWS Safety Infographics)

[www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11\(1\).pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11(1).pdf) (Advanced Spotter Guide)



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## WIND SCALE

MPH	Description	Bold = Severe Warning Criteria
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	
<b>55-72</b>	<b>Damage to chimneys, TV antennas; shallow-rooted trees toppled</b>	
<b>73-112</b>	<b>Peels surfaces off roofs; windows broken; light mobile homes overturned; moving cars pushed off road</b>	
<b>113-157</b>	<b>Roofs torn off houses; cars lifted off ground</b>	

## HAIL CORRELATION

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

## 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 [nws.detroit@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.detroit@noaa.gov)