

## Info To Know

**Hazardous Weather Outlook:** Local NWS seven day product identifying severe potential in the coming week.

**Weather Watch:** [www.spc.noaa.gov](http://www.spc.noaa.gov)  
A Watch is issued when conditions become favorable for severe weather. *Spotter networks may prepare to activate.*

**Weather Warning:**  
A Warning is issued when severe weather is occurring or is imminent based on National Weather Service Doppler radar or spotter reports. *Spotters report weather or damage info to NWS and local officials.*

## Receiving Weather Information

Smart phone – wireless alerts. See: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weather/readynation/wea.html>

TV, radio, internet ([www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov))

Text Alerts: NWS Alerts and warnings as RSS, XML, REST, CAP feeds. See : [www.weather.gov/subscribe](http://www.weather.gov/subscribe)

NOAA Weather Radio: [weather.gov/nwr](http://weather.gov/nwr)

**Facebook and Twitter:** Join us. Send storm pictures or reports to us on our Facebook page. Twitter: follow us at **@NWSIndianapolis**. We follow **#INWX** and **#NWSIND**



## Spotter Reporting

Some groups have special reporting needs. See your spotter group or County Emergency Mgmt.

**NWS IND phone contact (Spotters only):**  
1-800-499-2133 or 317-856-0359

**Email reports and photos:**  
[W-ind.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:W-ind.webmaster@noaa.gov)

**Send reports/photos to our Facebook:**  
**Tweet and send in reports by using**  
**@NWSIndianapolis**

## Include in Reports:

- ☞ **Who** you are
- ☞ **What** you observed
- ☞ **Where** the event occurred:  
Exact location; county; GPS Lat Lon
- ☞ **When** the event occurred
- ☞ **Damage** that you witnessed

## What to Report:

- ☞ Tornadoes or funnel clouds
- ☞ Rotating wall clouds
- ☞ Hail (any size)
- ☞ Winds (40+ mph) tell us:  
estimated or measured
- ☞ Flooding
- ☞ Weather causing death or injury



National Weather Service  
Indianapolis [www.weather.gov/ind](http://www.weather.gov/ind)



# Information for Severe Weather Spotters

National Weather Service  
Indianapolis, Indiana



For more information contact:

National Weather Service  
6900 West Hanna Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46241  
[W-ind.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:W-ind.webmaster@noaa.gov)

[weather.gov/ind](http://weather.gov/ind)  
[weather.gov](http://weather.gov)

# Spotter Tips

**Safety first:** stay out of harm's way

**Lightning** spot inside when bolts fly

**Hail:** Don't report "marbles" for size - use coins; better yet, measure its diameter.

**Tornadoes** often move northeast, east or southeast. Watch radar loops to determine storm direction. The best position to view a storm is outside the rain looking north or northwest toward the approaching storm.

**Squall lines rains** are preceded by a **shelf cloud**. Uplifting air in front of a shelf cloud can create finger-like features in the shelf that are funnel-like: beware; funnels rotate.

**Supercells** produce shelf clouds both at the forward and rear flanks yielding downbursting wind of varying strength.

Supercell **updrafts**, rearward of the forward flanks rain shaft, often develop a wall cloud, the isolated lowering in the rain-free updraft cloud base.

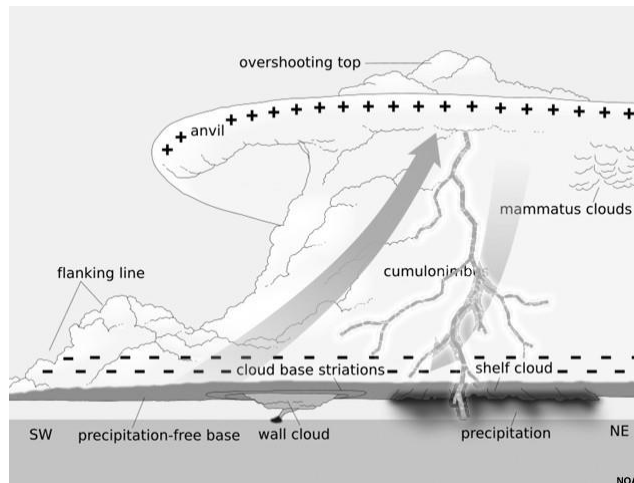
**Wall Clouds** are typically cylindrical and to be significant, exhibit organized and sustained rotation about a vertical axis. The wall cloud precedes a funnel and is near the clearing slot before a tornado forms.

Report accurately; a **tornado** is a violently rotating column of air in contact with the ground and causes damage. A **funnel cloud** is a violently rotating column of air not reaching the ground and not causing damage. Be observant – sometimes there is no visible connection between the cloud and the ground; if debris is spiraling upward, it's a tornado.

# Estimating Wind Speed

Most wind damage from thunderstorms is caused by straight-line winds (also known as "downbursts"). When reporting wind speed, remember to include whether the report was measured or estimated, and describe any damage. If you cannot measure the wind speed, use the table below:

- 25-30 mph: large branches move.
- 30-40 mph: whole trees move.
- 40-45 mph: small branches break; walking impeded.
- 45-55 mph: larger branches and weak limbs may break; slight structural damage occurs.
- 55-65 mph: moderate structural and tree damage occur.
- 65 mph + : heavy to severe structural and tree damage occur.

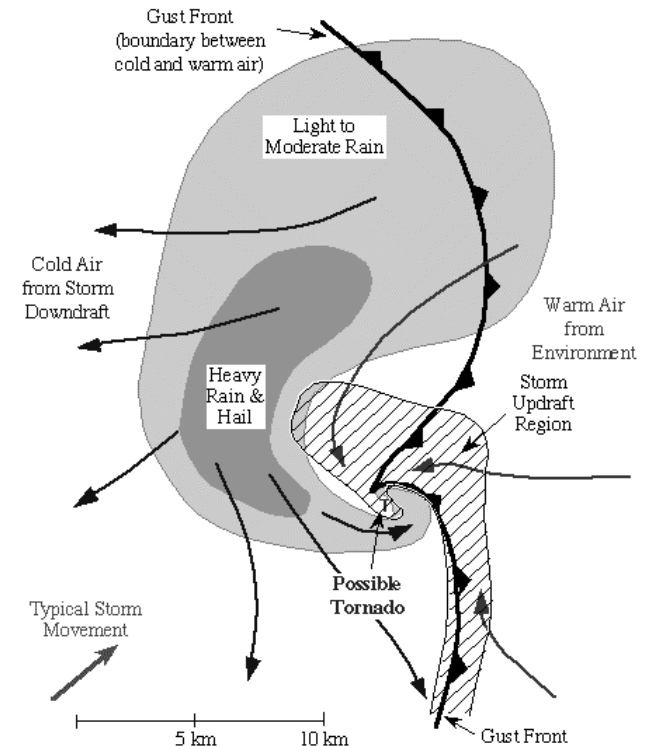


Supercell Schematic

# Supercell Thunderstorms

Supercells are always severe, often with tornadoes, large hail, and intense straight-line winds. The best position to view wall cloud and tornadoes from are on the inflow side which is typically to the east or south side of the cell; or perhaps view from its rear side as it's moving away. Always ensure you are in a safe place when viewing and have four way escape access if you are mobile.

Schematic of Surface Conditions Common with a Supercell Thunderstorm



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National Weather Service Indianapolis  
<http://www.weather.gov/ind>