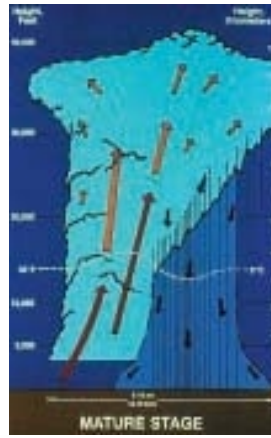
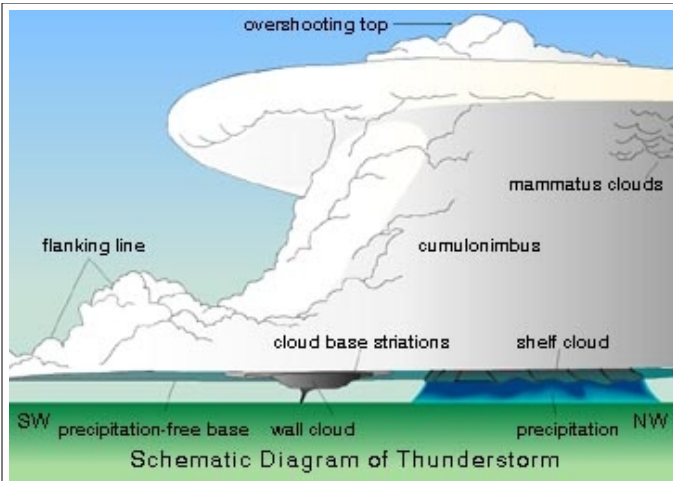


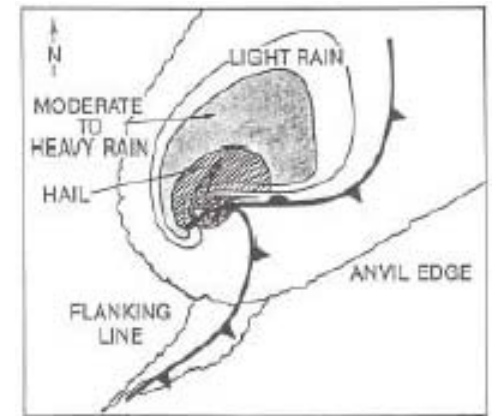
Storm Spotter Reference Sheet

Huntsville, Alabama

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hun/> | Phone: (256) 890-8503 | Spotter Number (Unlisted)



Air flow in a mature-stage thunderstorm



Radar schematic of classic supercell

Spotter Tips

- * Safety comes first; take cover when needed!
- * The schematics above depict what to look for in a classic supercell; LP and HP thunderstorms look differently.
- * If this is a severe weather day, obtain advanced hazardous weather outlooks and discussions.
- * Most but not all tornadoes move from southwest to northeast. Best viewing is from the south or southeast.
- * Know where you are relative to the movement of the storm. Wall clouds occur near the back of the storm while shelf clouds usually occur near the front.
- * Wall clouds are a lowering of the cloud base below the storm tower. It is always attached (unlike scud clouds). Wall clouds may or may not rotate.
- * When observing a suspicious lowering, be sure to look for persistent and organized rotation when determining if it is a tornado. Scud clouds, rain shafts and smoke columns can be confused for funnel clouds.
- * When looking for a tornado, look for evidence of rotation and a debris cloud at the ground level.
- * When reporting wind speeds or gusts, state whether they are measured or estimated.
- * Monitor weather radio, TV & radio broadcasts, and emergency radio networks for latest storm location, information, watches and warnings.

Wind Speed Estimates (MPH)

25-31	Large branches in motion, whistling in overhead wires.
32-38	Whole trees are in motion; walking into the wind becomes difficult.
39-54	Twigs and small, thin branches break off; a few larger dead or weak branches may break off.
55-73	Large limbs break and shallow rooted trees are pushed over; damage to antennas; a few awnings and shingles may be blown off houses; mobile homes, billboard signs and carports may sustain some minor damage.
74-89	Widespread tree damage either broken or uprooted; mobile homes and carports will sustain more significant damage – mobile homes may be overturned; some roof damage to buildings; weak structures (outbuildings) may be severely damaged.
> 90	Groves of trees flattened; mobile homes severely damaged, pushed off their foundations or overturned; roof damage is more substantial, parts of the roof may be peeled off; barns and sheds severely damaged or destroyed.

Hail Ruler (3 Inches)



- * Seek shelter as soon as it begins to hail.
- * Always *measure* hail sizes if possible. If you must estimate, do not use “marble” – they come in several sizes!
- * Report the size of the largest hail stone you see.

Hail Size Estimates

0.75” - Penny	2.00” - Hen Egg / Lime
0.88” - Nickel	2.50” - Tennis Ball
1.00” - Quarter	2.75” - Baseball
1.25” - Half Dollar	3.00” - Large Apple
1.50” Ping Pong Ball	4.00” - Grapefruit
1.75” - Golf Ball	4.50” - Softball

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What To Report

- * Tornadoes or Funnel Clouds (state which)
- * Rotating wall clouds
- * Hail > .75 inches in diameter
- * Wind gusts > 58 MPH
- * Any storm damage such as trees, limbs and/or power lines downed, structural damage, etc.

How To Report

- * **Who** you are and any affiliations (SKYWARN, law enforcement, etc.)
- * **What** you observed. Give detail and be precise.
- * **Where** the event occurred. Be sure to note the difference between where you are and where the event is actually occurring.
- * **When** it happened. Be precise.

Send Your Report

- * **Emergency Manager.** Your reports should first go to your local emergency manager or collection point, including amateur radio emergency networks. They will forward your report to us.
- * **Call Us** directly in Huntsville at (256) 890-8503.
- * **On-line Reports** are not available at the current time.

Things To Have When Storm Spotting

- * Pad of paper and pencil or pen
- * A watch set to the correct time
- * This reference sheet and other storm spotter reference material if available
- * A ruler
- * Weather instruments if you have them
- * Weather radio
- * Maps of the local area
- * GPS unit, if available.
- * Binoculars
- * Telephone / Cell phone
- * Amateur radio transceiver, if properly licensed

NOAA All-Hazard Weather Radio Transmitters for Northern Alabama & Southern Tennessee



NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio (NWR) is now *the fastest way* to get your warnings. New technology used by the National Weather Service enables warnings to be broadcast over NWR just a few seconds after they are issued, adding valuable lead-time to potentially life-saving warnings.

SKYWARN, ARES, and Local Amateur Radio 2 Meter Emergency Network Frequencies Frequency - PL - Description

- 146.94 – 100.0 - Madison County Emergency Response Net/ARES Net
 - 147.18 – 100.0 - Madison County BACKUP
 - 147.22 – 136.5 - Madison County RACES Net
 - 147.24 – 82.5 - North Alabama/Southern Middle Tennessee SKYWARN Net (Huntsville repeater)
 - 146.96 SKYWARN Net (Moulton repeater)
 - 147.36 SKYWARN Net (Section repeater)
 - 145.15 – Limestone County ARES Net
 - 147.00 – Morgan County Emergency Net
 - 146.88 – Birmingham Emergency Net
- Source: Madison County ARES web site.

NOAA All-Hazard Weather Radio SAME Codes and Frequencies

County	SAME Code	Frequency (MHz)
Colbert	001033	162.475
Cullman	001043	162.525 162.450
DeKalb	001049	162.525 162.500
Franklin (AL)	001059	162.475
Franklin (TN)	047051	162.525 162.475
Jackson	001071	162.525 162.500 162.400 162.525
Lauderdale	001077	162.475 162.500
Lawrence	001079	162.475 162.400
Limestone	001083	162.400
Lincoln	047103	162.400 162.525 162.425
Madison	001089	162.525 162.400
Moore	047127	162.525 162.475
Morgan	001103*	162.400

* Morgan County residents may choose several sub-county SAME codes. Visit the NWS-Huntsville office web page for more specific information.

Storm chasing is extremely dangerous. The National Weather Service does not endorse or condone this activity.