

2025 Spotter Reference Guide

HOW TO REPORT



National Weather Service Detroit/Pontiac MI

• Spotter Line:

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

(Unlisted & Answered 24/7)

Other methods:

• Facebook:

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



• X:

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



• County Net

• Winlink:

K8DTX@winlink.org

• E-mail:

nws.detroit@noaa.gov

• Mobile App: MPing

mping.nssl.noaa.gov

How to Report Website:



WHAT TO REPORT

- Wind gusts of 40 mph or greater
 - Severe Criteria: Winds of **58 mph or greater**
- Hail ½ inch diameter or greater
 - Severe Criteria: Hail of **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 (NWS Detroit/Pontiac Homepage)

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

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

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

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

www.ready.gov (Storm Preparedness)

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

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

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

On Reverse Side

Wind Scale

Hail Correlation

4 Season Reporting



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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	
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	

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!

Send a message on [Facebook](#) or [X](#) or email nws.detroit@noaa.gov.