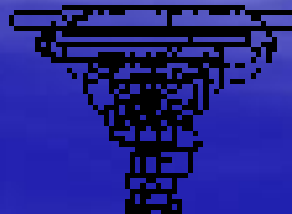
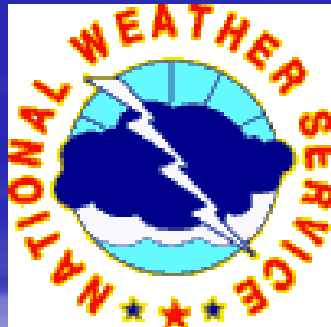


Stormspotter Reporting



***This presentation is sponsored by the
Anderson County ARES***

Your friendly neighborhood radio team



DISCLAIMER!

This information is **NOT** endorsed by the National Weather Service and is not intended to be a substitute of the official Basic Spotter Training Program provided by the NWS.

This is simply designed & provided to aid trained spotters on what to report to base radio operators who are in direct contact with the NWS.



Our Mission

To locate possible threats to life and property and provide information from which warnings can be issued!

SAFETY FIRST!

Just like firefighters
must be safe with
helmet, coat, pants,
boots, gloves, and air
pack.

Storm spotting is no
different. Be
prepared and know
what to look for.

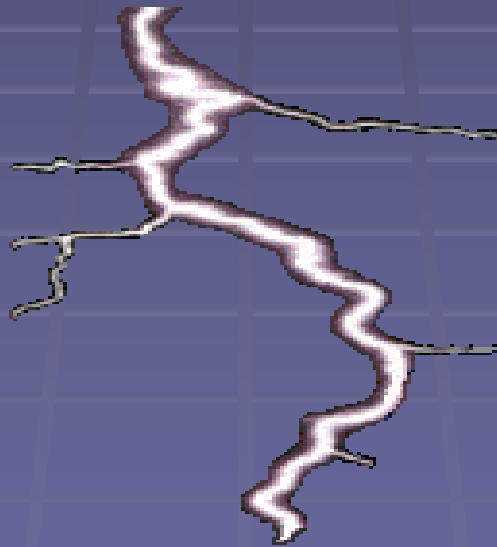


Safety Tips

- Spotters **SHOULD** attend a Basic and/or Advanced Storm Spotters Class before spotting. The schedule is online at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/sptrsched.html>
- Travel in pairs if at all possible. One to drive, one to watch.
- Keep aware of your surroundings at all times.

Safety Tips

Remember, lightning is a major killer among weather phenomena....



...but drowning in a Flash Flood is the number one killer in severe weather!



If water is flowing across the road, and you cannot see the road, *do not attempt to cross!*

Before going out, be PREPARED!

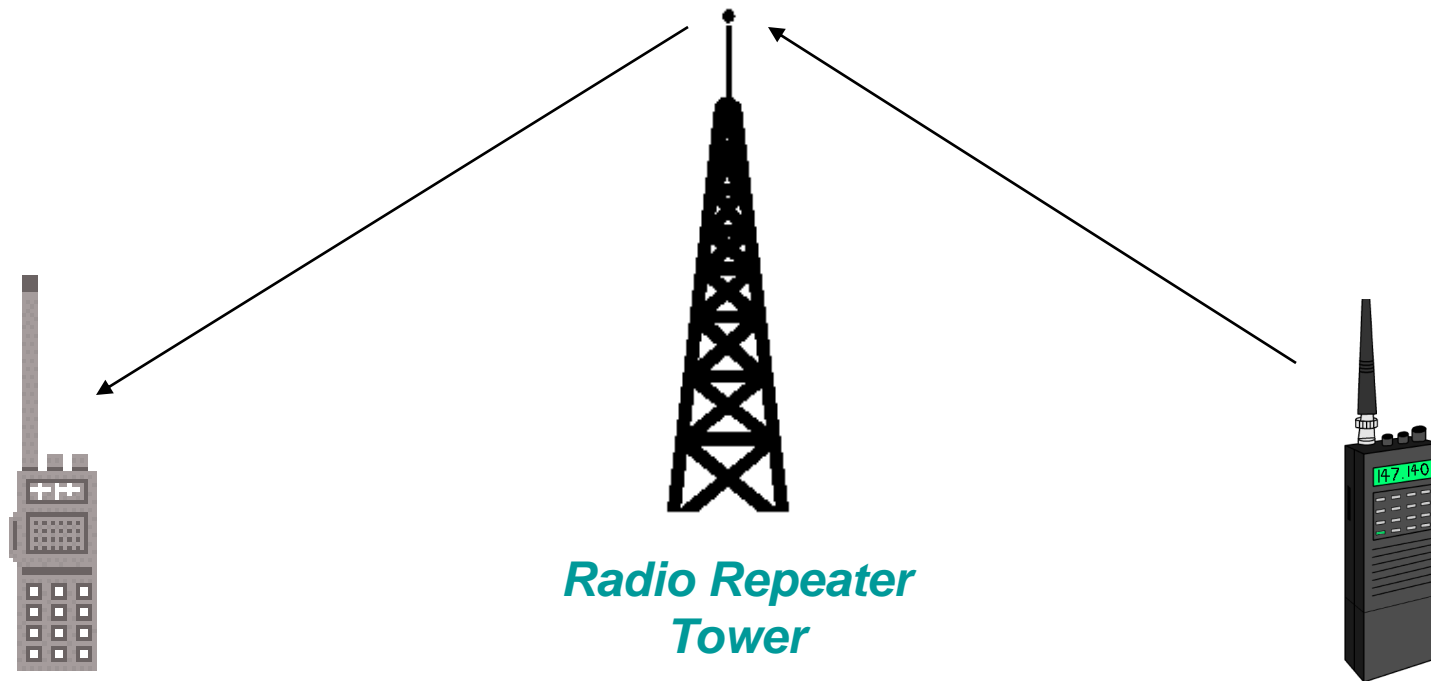
- ✓ Take approved training courses
- ✓ Have good operational equipment
- ✓ Have plenty of fuel in your vehicle
- ✓ Have a raincoat or light jacket available
- ✓ Have backup plan to call for help such as a charged cell phone or alternate radio frequency
- ✓ Have an **ESCAPE ROUTE! ! !**
- ✓ Have a plan for your family (they come first)

...and being prepared also means:

KNOW your equipment! If you are not familiar with your radio equipment and end up transmitting on a wrong frequency or have some other malfunction, then you are NO GOOD as a spotter! You could be delaying valuable information from other spotters.

Now.....on to
Radio Use & Etiquette

Radio Repeaters



A radio repeater allows a mobile, portable, or base radio to talk to another radio many miles away.

Radio Etiquette

- Know how to operate the particular radio you are using and what channel or frequency is being used...BEFORE you go out!
- Use a decent mobile radio capable of transmitting at least 10 watts minimum with a tuned antenna. (Primarily for VHF radios)
- P-T-T means “push-to-talk”
NOT “push-then-think”.

Radio Etiquette

- Listen before you key up the microphone, be patient and take your turn.
- Be brief but precise, other spotters may also have important information to report.
- Allow the Net Control Operator to set the pace of on-air information.

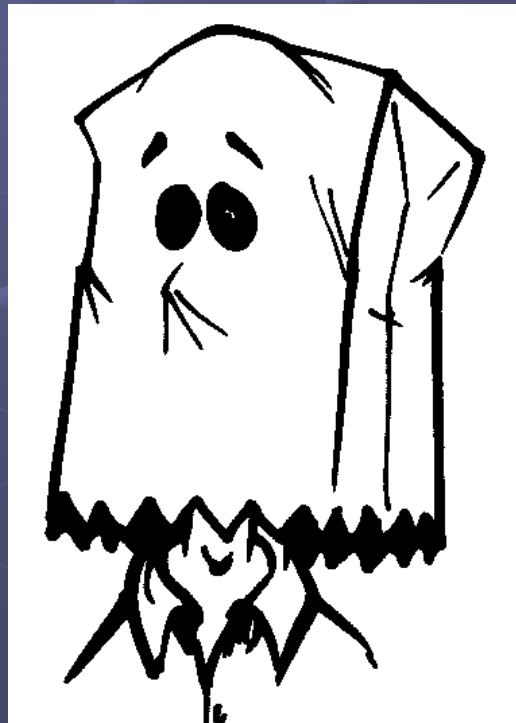
Radio Etiquette

(Amateur Radio Operators)

- Spotters usually activated on the 147.08 (Elmwood) repeater using *"Long Tone Zero"*
- Listen to Net Control Operator for instructions
- Weather Net is typically a Directed Net
- To converse with other amateurs, move to the 147.14 (Palestine) repeater or a simplex frequency such as 147.520 (TAC 1) or 147.530 (TAC 2)

Radio Etiquette

- And ALWAYS, ALWAYS identify yourself and your exact location.



Spotters should be OUTSIDE spotting with eyes to the skies...

...not inside on the computer watching radar. The NCS and NWS are doing that function. SPOTTERS are needed to give actual reports of physical activity on the ground.

Equipment



Binoculars



Mobile radio (preferred)



Portable radio



Flashlight



Compass



Weather thermometer

A GPS is good to have
with you as well!



Maybe even use APRS.

...and lastly, a map!



Watch vs. Warning

Watch – issued by the NWS indicating that a particular hazard is possible.

Warning – issued by the NWS local offices indicating that a particular weather hazard is either imminent or has been reported.



Contacting the National Weather Service in Ft. Worth

- by phone @ 1-800-792-2257
- online @ <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/StormReport/SubmitReport.php?site=fwd> (or simply Google "NWS Ft. Worth submit report")
- On radio via the UHF repeater linked to Corsicana the frequency is 444.600 + 103.5

Be sure to tell the NWS only what the TRAINED SPOTTERS in the field are telling you. DO NOT tell them what YOU are seeing on a RADAR screen.

What to Report

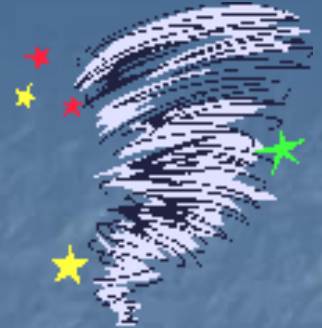
Minimum Reporting Criteria

Funnel Spotted



1. Is surface damage occurring?
2. Is funnel visible half-way to the ground?
3. What is your current location?
4. Direction & distance from you to the funnel?
5. Direction & rate of travel of funnel?
6. Do you have an escape route?

Wall Cloud Spotted



1. Is there visible rotation in the cloud?
2. Is any surface damage occurring?
3. Where is the updraft located on the wall cloud?
4. What is your exact location?
5. Direction & distance from you to the wall cloud?
6. Direction & rate of travel of the wall cloud?
7. Do you have an escape route?

Observe the cloud for at least five minutes to see if it develops into a funnel.

***Remember that ALL other reports cease
when a funnel or wall cloud is reported!***



Hail

New Criteria Now

- 1. Report hail 1 inch or larger (the size of a quarter)**
- 2. What is your exact location where the hail is falling?**
- 3. What is the estimated size of the hail (in inches or coin size)?**
- 4. How much is falling (occasional or heavy)?**
- 5. Is there a shelter nearby for you to seek cover?**

TIP: If possible, DO NOT drive a vehicle during heavy hail. The speed of the vehicle plus the speed of the falling hail will cause tremendous damage to the vehicle.

Damaging Winds (over 50 mph)

- 1. What is your exact location?**
- 2. Is the wind speed greater than 50 m.p.h. (can't walk against the wind)?**
- 3. What is the direction of the wind?**
- 4. Briefly describe the damage that is occurring.**

How Do I Estimate Wind Speed?

(from the NWS Advanced Spotter Guide)

Mile Per Hour	Specifications
25 -31	Large branches move; whistling in high lines
32-38	Whole trees in motion
39-54	Twigs break off trees; walking impeded
55-72	Damage to chimneys, TV antennas; pushes over shallow rooted trees
73-112	Peels surface off roofs; windows broken; trailer houses overturned
113+	Roofs torn off houses; weak buildings and trailer houses destroyed; large trees uprooted

Observe any fallen limbs or trees

- What size are they?
- Is it green wood, seasoned, or rotted?
- Is the tree uprooted? Do you see the roots?
- Is the tree broken on the trunk somewhere?

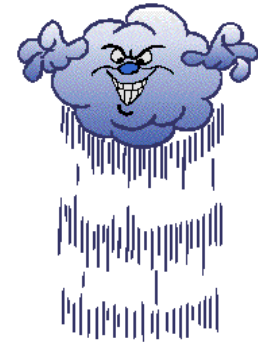
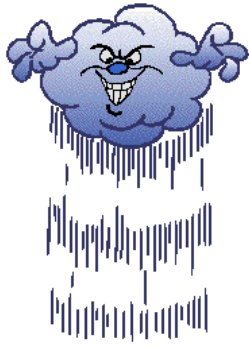
Rainfall

(over 1 inch per hour)

- What is your exact location?
- What is the estimated rainfall in inches per hour?
- Is there any flash flooding occurring at your location?

How do I *estimate* rainfall?

- **0.5 to 1.0 inch per hour = Heavy**
- **1.0 to 2.0 inch per hour = Very Heavy**
- **2.0 to 5.0 inch per hour = Intense**
- **> than 5.0 inch per hour = Extreme**



Light rainfall has almost no impact on visibility.

1.0 inch per hour/heavy rainfall makes it difficult to see beyond 75-100 feet with any definition.

Extreme rainfall rates restrict clear visibility to 20 feet or less. (Typically less, which is about the length of a standard size automobile).

TIP: DO NOT attempt to estimate rainfall if your car is in motion. Rain beating on the windshield can be misleading.



***Storm information can also be reported
to the National Weather Service at***

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/sptreport.html>

SKYWARN TRAINING

Is very important!



For Further Info:

Go to the PACARC website at
www.pacarc.org

On the front page, in the yellow
there is a link to download a
PDF of

SKYWARN Net Control Info

WRAP UP

Questions and/or Comments

For further info contact

Tom KB5YUE 903-724-1090

kb5yue@arri.net