

# Metro Skywarn Class Notes

## Step by Step Spotting:

Step 1: Identify the updraft and downdraft

- Are you in the updraft or downdraft?
- If updraft, do you see a wall cloud? Is it rotating? Any funnel clouds/tornadoes?

Step 2: Assess strength/potential

- Does the storm appear to be strengthening? Wall clouds spinning faster? Inflow winds stronger?
- Think ahead – what comes after the feature I'm looking at?

Step 3: Determine storm motion and safety of your location

- Are you in the path? Are you safe?
- Do you have any hazardous things around you? (i.e. power lines, dead end streets?)
- Are you looking all around you? 360°

Step 4: Report critical information

- Is my report on the list of reportable conditions?
- Am I sure of what I'm looking at? Watch it for a minute if unsure.

## Submit a report via the web:

If you don't have a ham radio license or the net is not up, you may submit a report via the web.

<http://www.weather.gov/twincities>. Select Current Hazards > Submit a Storm Report > Submit Report

Include your Metro Skywarn ID OR your Skywatcher id in the Spotter ID section.

Examples:

- MSW #1234 (Metro Skywarn Spotter)
- Anoka Z-34 (Skywatcher ID)
- MSW – 2020 (Awaiting your Skywatcher ID – include “MSW – “ and the year)

Location – be specific – include city/suburb, major cross streets, GPS coordinates

## Links:

Metro Skywarn: <http://www.metroskywarn.org/>      Twitter: <http://twitter.com/metroskywarn>

Facebook: Open for Posts: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TwinCitiesMetroSkywarn/>

Official Announcements: <https://www.facebook.com/metroskywarn>

Storm Prediction Center: <http://www.spc.noaa.gov>

National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov/twincities>    [www.facebook.com/NWSTwinCities](http://www.facebook.com/NWSTwinCities)

Subscribe to MSWInfo: <http://www.metroskywarn.org/> then scroll down to MSW Info List and click “Subscribe”

Subscribe to MSWAlert: <http://www.metroskywarn.org/> then scroll down to MSW Alert List and click “Subscribe”

Café Press - <https://www.cafepress.com/profile/metroskywarn>

## Publications and Additional Training:

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

Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Lightning - [https://www.weather.gov/media/bis/TStorms\\_Tor\\_Lightning.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/bis/TStorms_Tor_Lightning.pdf)

Other Publications - [https://www.weather.gov/owlie/publication\\_brochures](https://www.weather.gov/owlie/publication_brochures)

Minnesota Severe Storms Conference - <http://mnssc.org/>

COMET - [www.meted.ucar.edu](http://www.meted.ucar.edu)      Spotter Network - <http://www.spotternetwork.org/>

University of Illinois [http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/\(Gh\)/home.xml](http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/(Gh)/home.xml)

NWS, Norman, OK Advanced Spotter Training - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bl3l2P3z0Bc>