SPOTTER REPORTING GUIDELINES
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE STATE COLLEGE

<u>NWS State College UNLISTED SkyWarn Spotter Number:</u> 800-697-0010

- Use this Number **ONLY** to report weather – NOT for general forecasts or questions!

<u>NWS State College LISTED Phone Number:</u> 814-231-2408

- Use this number for routine forecasts and questions
  - This number is answered 24x7
    - Choose Option 1 for the Weather Forecast Office
    - Choose Option 6 to speak to a forecaster

<u>ALL REPORTS SHOULD INCLUDE:</u>

- ✓ Location and Time
- ✓ Description of Damage
- ✓ Any Injuries or Fatalities

<u>TORNADOES / FUNNEL CLOUDS / WALL CLOUDS:</u>

- Movement and Trend of wall and funnel clouds – make sure they are rotating!
- For Tornadoes...Time of Touchdown and Lift-Up
- Be wary of Tornado look-alikes – Watch for Rotation!
  - Location: The location of the tornado relative to your position (i.e. 1 mile southeast)

<u>SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WINDS:</u>

- Estimated Wind Speeds
  - **58 MPH is the NWS criteria for Severe.** This is when trees begin to break / get blown down.
- Damage (structures or trees)
  - Houses, siding, chimneys, small trees, large trees, etc.

<u>HAIL:</u>

- Duration and Quantity
- Size (no “marble size” hail reports please!)
  - Pea: 0.25 inch
  - Penny: 0.75 inch
  - Nickel: 0.88 inch
  - **Quarter: 1.00 inch (Threshold to be considered “SEVERE”)**
  - Half Dollar: 1.25 inch
  - Walnut/Ping Pong Ball: 1.50 inch
  - Golf Ball: 1.75 inch
  - Lime: 2.00 inches
  - Tennis Ball: 2.50 inches
  - Baseball: 2.75 inches
  - Large Apple: 3.00 inches
  - Softball: 4.00 inches

Updated: 6/25/2020

RAINFALL and FLOODING:

- Rainfall rates greater than 1 inch in an hour
- Significant rainfall thresholds (i.e. 1 inch, 2 inches, 3 inches, etc.)
- Storm Total Rainfall, especially over 1 inch – the more the better!
- Location and Time of Flooding
  - When it started: When did minor flooding transition to a more significant event
- Cause of Flooding
  - Stream overtopping banks, ice jams, blocked storm drains
  - Urban Flooding - Storm Sewers overwhelmed by water
- Ice Jams (whether or not they are causing flooding)
- Damage – Houses flooded…Basements…Road Closures…etc...

WINTER WEATHER:

- Snow
  - When **accumulations** reach 3 and 6 inch mark (2 and 5 inches in Lower Susquehanna Valley)
  - Storm Total Accumulation (both during the storm and especially as soon as possible after the storm ends)
  - Snowfall **rates** greater than > 1 inch per hour
- Sleet: Any occurrence or Accumulation
- Freezing Rain
  - Any occurrence or accumulation
  - Storm Total ice accretion
  - Special notification when accumulation reaches ¼ inch+ (**Warning Criteria**)
    - Remember, when measuring ice accumulation on branches, to subtract the width of the branch and divide by 2!

OTHER:

- When forecast winter precipitation differs significantly from observed (i.e. snowing with no snow in the forecast; sleet, when only snow is forecast)
- Any other significant weather occurrence/oddity (i.e. damage from strong winds not associated with a thunderstorm.

CONTACT: To update your information, email john.banghoff@noaa.gov.

Web Sites and Links

NWS State College Home Page: www.weather.gov/statecollege
Web Based Reporting Form:
See: https://www.weather.gov/ctp/reportsevere and click on "*Severe weather reports and snowfall measurement form*"
Basic Spotter Guide:
https://www.weather.gov/media/bis/Weather_Spotter_Field_Guide.pdf
FACEBOOK: US National Weather Service State College PA
TWITTER: @NWSStateCollege and use #PAwx
EMAIL: ctp.stormreports@noaa.gov