

2008 Spotter Essentials

What's New In 2008

How to Report

During severe weather, accurate, timely reporting of events is critical. The following methods are available for Spotters to report directly to the NWS office in White Lake:

- **Spotter Line** – 1-800-808-0006
- **County Net**
- **Packet Radio** – K8DTX-5, 145.76 MHz
- **eSpotter** – espotter.weather.gov/
- **Internet** – weather.gov/detroit



EF-2 Damage in Livingston County. August 24, 2007.

On October 1, 2007, the NWS started issuing **Storm-Based Warnings** for more geographically specific warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, floods, and marine hazards. These warnings provide more specific information about the location of severe weather and the direction it is expected to move. This reduces the likelihood of needlessly alarming those outside the threat. More on Storm-Based Warnings can be found at <http://www.weather.gov/sbwarnings/>

The NWS continues to need more precise information on the location of spotter reports. There are three ways to provide this level of needed detail. In order of preference:

- 1) If you have a GPS system, we will take your "LAT and LON"
- 2) Street Address
- 3) Closest "major" intersection

The last two will get the NWS as close to your location's "LAT and LON" as possible.

As always, please indicated whether your report was Estimated or Measured (for example; hail size and/or wind speed)

Spotters Only

For a refresher of this years presentation and references, please visit www.weather.gov/dtx/spottraining/

Est. wind speed (mph)	Description
25-31	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telephone wires
32-38	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt in walking against the wind
39-54	Twigs break off trees; wind generally impedes progress
55-72	Damage to chimneys, TV antennas; pushes over shallow rooted trees
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

Phenomena	What to Report
Tornadoes	Tornadoes, funnel clouds, waterspouts
Hail	Plain M&M size (1/2") or larger
Thunderstorm wind gusts	Winds of 40 mph or greater
Flooding	Any flooding that threatens property or covers roads.
Snow	* When the first inch has fallen * Follow-up reports for each additional 2 inches. * Storm total.
Rain	* Amounts of one inch or greater within a 24 hour period.
Ice	* Freezing rain or sleet starts to fall * Ice causes serious impact on travel * Ice causes damage, such as to power lines and/or tree limbs Try to estimate the amount of glazing — e.g., 1/4 inch, 1/2 inch, etc.
High Wind	* Any wind gust 40 mph or greater * Any damage caused by high winds
Dense Fog	* Visibility 1/4 mile or less * Fog which has an impact on travel