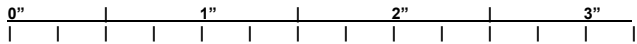


Central Mississippi ARES Storm Spotter Reporting Guide

WHAT to report:

TORNADO	Visible debris cloud or ; Funnel in contact with the ground: Report Immediately ! (Break in if necessary)
FUNNEL CLOUD	Visible funnel cloud not in contact with the ground and no debris cloud. Report Immediately !
ROTATING WALL CLOUD	Wall cloud with obvious, sustained vertical rotation and rising motion Observe 1 - 3 minutes, and report if still rotating
NON-ROTATING WALL CLOUD	Wall cloud without rotation with rising motion Observe 5 - 10 minutes, and then report if still present
WIND DAMAGE	Large branches off trees (3" dia); trees uprooted; significant damage to well-built structures; billboards or road signs damaged or knocked down
HAIL	Report any sized hail; amount, and maximum size Estimates: <i>measure</i> when possible – 1" and larger is severe "pea-sized" - 1/4 inch "golfball-sized" - ~ 1-3/4 inches "penny-sized" - ~3/4 inch "tennis ball size" - ~ 2.5 inches "quarter-sized" - ~ 1 inch 
SIGNIFICANT FLOODING	Report large amounts of moving water which poses a threat to life or property; <i>ponding</i> (standing water in intersections, etc.) not usually reportable
MEASURED RAINFALL	Greater than 1" of rain in less than 60 minutes (must use rain gauge!)
ANY CONDITION(S) ASKED FOR BY NET CONTROL	Report conditions observed from your area, including conditions not normally reportable if asked for by the Net control operator.
REMEMBER	Don't report the same conditions already reported in your area . Multiple reports for the same event/condition can prevent others from making reports of new conditions. If net control requests confirmation of a report from your area, and you can confirm or deny that report, you should do so.

<u>SAFETY TIPS</u>	Mobile spotting should be done while the vehicle is stationary . Trying to observing storm features while driving can cause accidents. Park your vehicle in a safe place, completely off the road, then look. Preferably, you should be in position prior to the storms' arrival so as to reduce the risk of driving in close proximity to severe weather.
Work in Spotter pairs	Two sets of eyes are better than one. Be aware of what's happening around and BEHIND you. Whenever possible, match new spotters with experienced spotters. However, spotting with someone who is not a trained spotter is better than working alone !
Do nighttime spotting from home	Very difficult to see storm and storm features at night, or to see conditions such as flooding, downed trees and power lines, in the dark. DO NOT increase your risk by driving into the dark.
Leave at least TWO escape routes	BEWARE of traffic jams, dead-end roads, streets, or roads without limited alternative access in all compass directions.

Central Mississippi ARES "Chase" vs "Spot" Policy: a) Central Mississippi ARES neither advocates nor encourages the "chasing" of tornadoes or other severe weather. Central Mississippi ARES does not consider the training of severe weather *spotters* sufficient to allow spotters to safely engage in the dangerous task of chasing tornadoes. b) Central Mississippi ARES NCS's provide information as to where severe weather is located as a safety measure for our listeners. Central Mississippi ARES and the participating NCSs do not "dispatch" spotters. NCS's may, from time to time, ask for reports from specific areas affected, or about to be affected, by severe weather. If spotters *chose to move* to those areas, they do so at their own risk and responsibility. c) Safety of Storm Spotters is the **FIRST** priority. Mobile spotting should be done while your vehicle is stationary. Trying to observe storm features while driving can cause accidents. Park your vehicle in a safe place, *then* observe, and report if necessary. Observe traffic laws and speed limits. You have no special privileges as a Storm Spotter! Nighttime spotting should be done from home, work or other safe place. Storm features are very difficult to see at night, as are dangerous road conditions such as flooding, and downed trees or power lines. Do not increase your risk by driving into the dark. NOTE: The information in and format of this document was adapted from the original version created by MetroSkywarn of Minneapolis/St Paul, and has been adopted by Central Mississippi ARES as our official SKYWARN policy and procedures.

Notes: If the Central Mississippi ARES Emergency Net has not yet been activated, and if you are able to get into the Raymond Repeater from your area of Central MS, please pass your Storm Spotter Reports to: JARC's Skywarn Group: 146.940- MHz PL100

(OVER)


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Central Mississippi ARES Storm Spotter Reporting Guide

HOW to report:

<p>Central Mississippi ARES Emergency Net Voice & Digital Combined</p> <p>REPEATERS</p> <p>PRIMARY: 145.390- MHz PL 77</p> <p>BACKUP: 147.045+ MHz PL100</p> <p>DIGITAL:</p> <p>NBEMS (Fldigi, Flmsg, Flamp) Mode: MT63-2KL, 1500 waterfall</p> <p>Some information is better passed by voice, other information by digital. This net will always run as a combination voice/digital net. All check ins will be taken by voice mode. Digital information will only be taken in an FLMSG form. All stations must receive approval from Net Control before passing and traffic or reports via voice or digital.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Access the net with your callsign, and a brief (one or two word) description of the reportable condition. Example: "K5ABC, checking in." or "K5ABC, wind damage." add the word "digital" when you have an FLMSG form ready to send. "K5ABC, hail, digital"2. When Net Control acknowledges with your callsign, for example; "K5ABC" or "K5ABC, go ahead", give a brief and complete verbal report that ends with your call sign. Example: "I'm located at I-20 E and I-55 at the Stack. Pea-sized hail is covering the ground. Some the size of a dime. K5ABC." If sending digitally, begin your digital transmission using FLMSG AutoSend. Keep all digital transmissions to less than one and half minutes so as to not time out the repeater. (Test time them off the air before sending!)3. One of two things will happen next:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Net Control operator may ask you questions to clarify your report. End each reply with your Amateur Radio callsign.OR• The Net Control Operator will respond with time in 24-hour format. This means your report has been received and understood, and that the Net is available for reports from other spotters. Example "1732 hours" <p>This reporting format is intended to reduce the "on air" time for each report. Use of your callsign is required to be legal with the FCC.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED RADIO & ANTENNA: Minimum of 25 watts power & external antenna. Hand-held radios with "rubber duckies" just can't get through the storm. If you must use a hand held, use high power, and try to get at least a quarter - wave antenna on top of the car, or outside of the building.</p>
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<p>'9-1-1', Police and Sheriff, Fire Department</p>	<p>It is generally NOT a good idea to try to make reports of severe weather to the '9-1-1' emergency system. '9-1-1' operators do not know about Skywarn, nor Skywarn ID numbers. They will often be swamped by calls from the public. Additionally, Police and Sheriff's offices must respond to calls related to storm damage, and home and business burglar alarms set off by the storm.</p> <p>It is suggested that you use '9-1-1' <i>only for damage which poses an immediate threat to life or property</i>, such as fires, natural gas or LP gas leaks, medical emergencies, blocked roads, downed wires near people, or in the road, or significant flooding.</p> <p>When necessary to use 911, it is preferable that you do so from a landline telephone as near to the event as possible and safe. This increases the chances of reaching the correct agency the first time. When you dial 911 from a <i>cell phone</i>, you may be talking to a State Patrol dispatcher rather than a local city or county 911 operator.</p> <p>You must be able to describe where you are and where the event you are reporting is located. Street addresses, city names and street/road/highway intersections are a good way to do this.</p>
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<p>SIGN UP FOR MISSISSIPPI ARES ACTIVATION ALERTS</p> 	<p>Central Mississippi ARES uses GroupMe to send the following alerts to our team members:</p> <p>Stand By Alert: Prepare for a potential activation within the next 24 to 48 hours</p> <p>Emergency Activation: All ARES team members and our Nets have been officially activated</p> <p>Stand Down Alert: The Activation has ended, ARES members and nets are to Stand Down</p> <p>Simulated Emergency Activation: Used to test our team's response to a simulated activation and adjust our training to correct any weaknesses in preparation for real emergencies.</p>
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