



SEVERE WEATHER REPORTING

POLK COUNTY ARES

22 MAY 2025

TEL METHOD

- TIME
- EVENT
- LOCATION

TEL METHOD

TIME

- **WHEN** the event occurred.
- *NOT when you make your report*
- Report as soon as you can

TEL METHOD

EVENT

WHAT you have witnessed: the specific weather event

- Tornado
- Funnel Clouds
- Hail
- Wind
- Flash Floods

TEL METHOD

LOCATION

WHERE the event occurred, (not necessarily your location) using well known roads or landmarks



I am in Arcadia at the
intersection of Highways 31 & 70
I see a tornado to my northeast

TEL METHOD



Bad Report: TIME EVENT
About 20 minutes ago, I saw some hail
come down on I-75
LOCATION

TEL METHOD



Great Report:

TIME

EVENT

I'm a SKYWARN Spotter, at 4:05 PM I drove
through golf ball size hail on Interstate 75
at mile marker 298

LOCATION

LOCAL REPORTING CRITERIA

- Tornadoes, Waterspouts, or Funnel Clouds
- Any Size Hail, *severe hail is the size of a quarter (1") or larger*
- Damaging Wind or winds approaching 45 MPH (*severe wind is 58 MPH*)
- Heavy Rain (2" in one hour or 4" in one day)
- Significant Urban or Small Stream Flooding (e.g. stalled cars in water)
- Any damage that seems weather related, even if a day or two later

TORNADOS

1.What damage did you observe?

2.Direction of travel?

3.How long was it on the ground?

4.When did it start and end?

5.How wide was it?

6.How far did it travel if known?

WALL CLOUDS/FUNNEL CLOUDS

- Watch for organization, persistence and rotation. Report if clouds are rotating and how long they have existed.

HAIL

Report the size of the largest stone and any damage. To estimate size, compare hail to well known objects such as coins or balls, but not to marbles, or measure the hail with a ruler.



Estimating Hail Size: When reporting hail, it is best to measure the hail when safe to do so. If you are not equipped with a ruler or other measuring instrument, hail size can be related loosely to coins or athletic balls, as in this table:

Size	Report		Size	Report
<¼"	BB		1¾"	Golf Ball
¼"	Pea		2"	Lime
7/10"	Dime		2½"	Tennis Ball
¾"	Penny		2¾"	Baseball
7/8"	Nickel		3"	Large Apple
1"	Quarter		4"	Softball
1¼"	Half Dollar		4½"	Grapefruit
1½"	Walnut or Ping-Pong Ball			

WIND

- Report *measured* wind speed. Handheld anemometers are available for under \$15.
- Estimate the wind using the Beaufort Wind Force Scale

Wind Speed (mph)	Effects
25-31	Large branches in motion.
32-38	Whole trees in motion.
39-54	Twigs break off trees, wind impedes walking.
55-72	Damage to TV antennas, large branches break off trees.
73-112	Surfaces off roofs peeled off, windows broken, trailer homes overturned.
113+	Roofs blown from houses, weak buildings and trailer homes destroyed, large trees uprooted, train cars blown off tracks.

FLASH FLOODS

1. Report flooded roadways, rivers and streams, giving approximate water depth.
2. Does the flooding consist of standing water or is it flowing?
3. Is the water level continuing to rise, staying steady or falling?
4. Is the flooding occurring in a known flood prone area?
5. Any damage from the flooding or mud slides?

LIGHTNING

- Any injuries or deaths?
- Did it cause a fire?
- Did it cause a widespread power outage?

Only report lightning when damage or injuries occur

PRACTICE 1

You are at your home: 2025 Polk Street, Winter Haven. Its now 4 PM, 20 minutes ago a big thunderstorm came thru and you heard hail hit your patio. You pick these up from outside. What do you report?



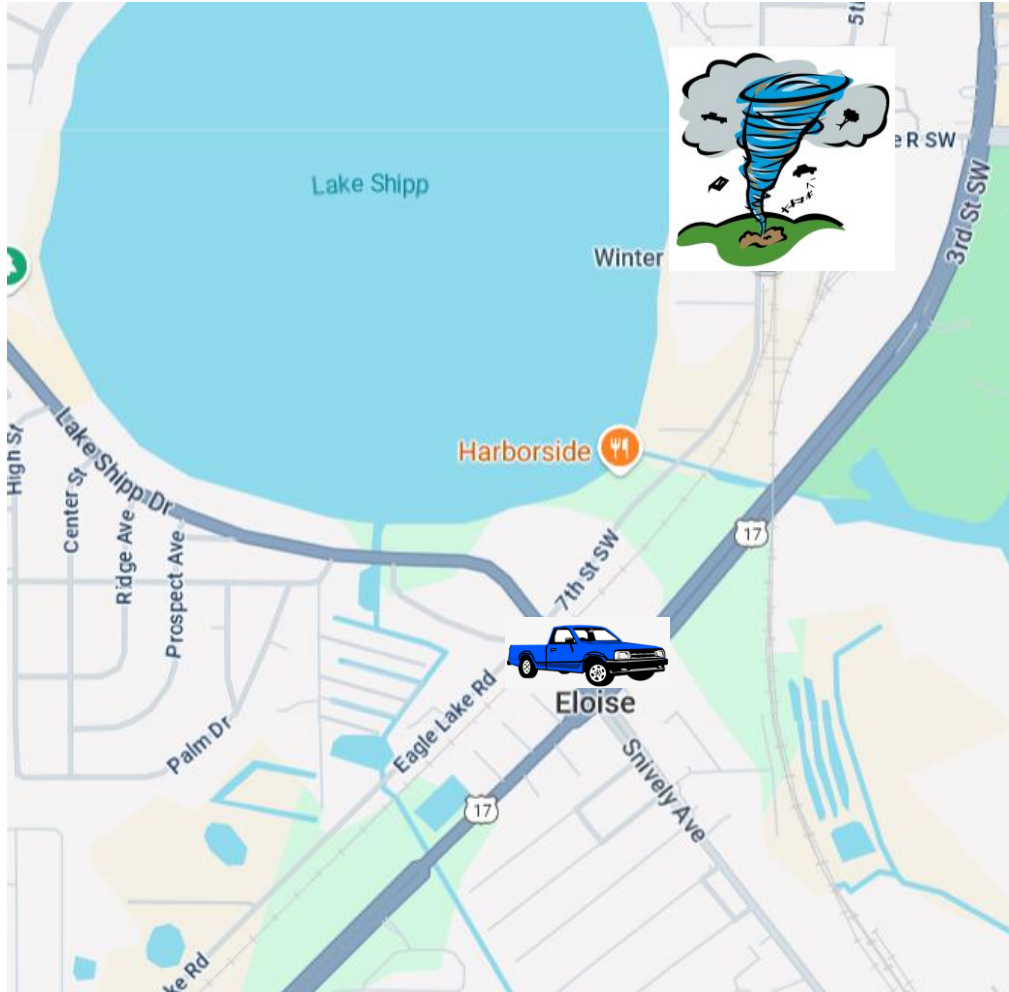
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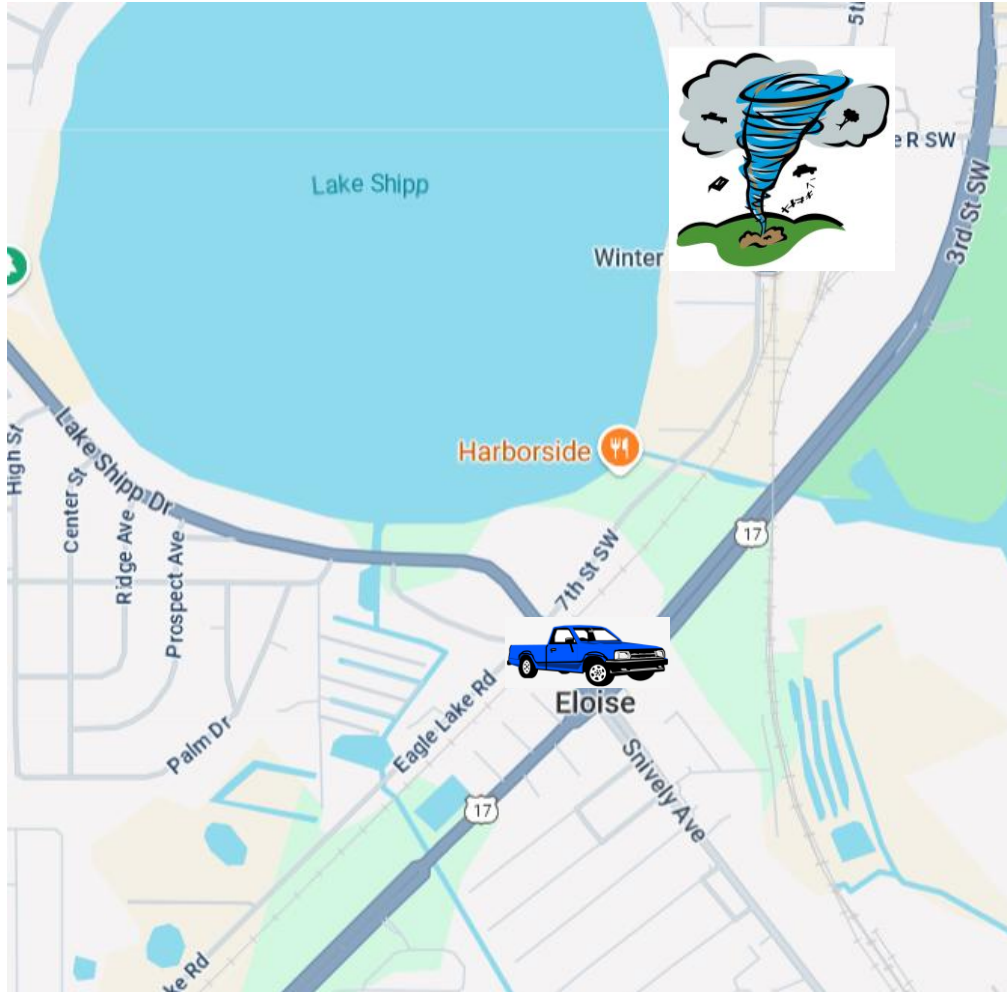
At 3:40 PM, Baseball size hail hit my house at 2025 Polk Street, Winter Haven

PRACTICE 2



What do you report?

PRACTICE 2



What do you report?

At 1230 PM, I spotted a tornado
North East of the intersection of
Highway 17 and Lake Ship Drive
in Winter Haven

PRACTICE 3

You are driving West across Highway 60 about to cross Peace Creek Road. It's 0700 in the morning. How would you report this?



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You are driving West across Highway 60 about to cross Peace Creek Road. It's 0700 in the morning. How would you report this?



At 0700, there is standing flood water, approximately 3 feet deep at the intersection of Peace Creek Road and Highway 60

PRACTICE 4

You are driving south on US 98 at the intersection of 98 and 64 (Avon Park). At 8 PM and you see lightening strike south west of your location. What do you report?



PRACTICE 4

You are driving south on US 98 at the intersection of 98 and 64. At 8 PM and you see lightening strike south west of your location. What do you report?



NO REPORT REQUIRED.

Only report lightening when
damage or injuries occur

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

National Weather Service SkyWarn Page

<https://www.weather.gov/skywarn/>

Tampa Bay SkyWarn Page

<https://www.weather.gov/tbw/skywarn>

QUESTIONS?