

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE EL PASO

Spotter Call-in Criteria (guidelines, not absolute law)

Spotter Hotline: (800) 874-6755

Other Purposes: (505) 589-4088

Web page: www.weather.gov/elpaso

(National): www.weather.gov

Address: 7955 Air port Rd. Santa Teresa, NM 88008

Flash Flooding:

Is described as any potentially dangerous flooding of arroyos or low water crossings.

Heavy Rain:

Report half inch within 30 minutes/1 inch within 3 hours

Report any significant ponding or flowing of water.

Hail:

Report hail stones three quarter inch in diameter (see estimation table below).

Tornado, funnel cloud, or rotating wall cloud:

Report time, location, and movement.

Winds:

Report estimated 50 mph or more (use guide on page 3 in *Advanced Spotters Guide*).

Report distinct downburst (descending “bubble” or “rain/dust foot”).

Visibilities ¼ mile or less:

Report when due to fog, blowing dust, or heavy precipitation.

Snow:

Desert: Report when accumulation begins.

Mountains: Report when greater than 2 inches accumulates.

Freezing Rain:

Report when freezes on contact with outdoor surfaces.

Estimating Hail Sizes

¼ inch:	pea	1.25 inch:	half dollar	2.75 inch:	baseball
¾ inch	penny	1.75 inch:	golf ball	4-inch	grapefruit
One-inch	quarter	2.50 inch:	tennis ball	4.50 inch:	softball