



## **Storm Spotting By-Laws**

### **I. Cabinet**

#### **A. Team Leader**

1. Team leader is the person in charge of any storm spotting decisions, meetings, and briefs.
2. Team leader will be voted by the Severe Weather Club when the officers are voted.
3. Prepares agenda for meetings and briefs. The agenda will depend on the development of the storm(s). What goes into the agenda is any travel organizations, information about storm(s) development, radar rotation, and checklist for vehicles and equipment.
4. Official representative of the Severe Weather Club Storm Spotters.

#### **B. Assistance Team Leader**

1. Assistance Team Leader will be voted by the Severe Weather Club when the officers are voted.
2. Assumes duties of Team Leader, when necessary.
3. Assists Team Leader in coordinating spotting decisions, meetings, and briefs.

### **II. Meetings**

- Meetings will take place on an available date, preferably on the same week of spotting, for all storm spotters after spotting storm(s). The spotters will keep on file any analyzed data from radar, film, pictures, and instruments.

### **III. Briefs**

- Briefs will be held before storm spotting. This will allow spotters to forecast where possible storm(s) may occur, look at storm(s) track, storm(s) intensity, make travel plans, go over radar rotation, and vehicle and equipment checklists.

#### IV. **Pre-Chase**

- Spotters will have a brief to discuss storms intensity and travel organization.
- Spotters must sign out any equipment for storm spotting.
- Spotters must check any communication and instruments so that they are in good working condition.
- Spotters must have the most up to date maps of areas traveling.

#### V. **Checklist for Vehicles**

- Spotter(s) must have valid U.S. driver license.
- Vehicles must be insured. Proof of most up to date insurance card must be shown.
- Vehicles must have most up to date State License Plate sticker.
- Spotters must do a check of vehicles of:
  1. Oil
  2. Gas
  3. Tires
  4. Tire Pressure
  5. Brakes
  6. Brake Lights
  7. Turn Signals
  8. Headlights
  9. Jumper Cables
  10. Jack
  11. Tire Iron
  12. Doughnut (spare tire)
  13. First Aid Kit
- Whoever is driving their vehicles must fill up their gas tank before spotting. Payments made be planned by driver and spotters in his/her vehicle.

#### VI. **Checklist of Equipments**

- Spotters must do a check of equipment of:
  1. Radar
  2. Digital/Video Cameras
  3. Flashlights
  4. Maps
  5. Communication (cell phones, CB or Ham radios)
  6. Computers

## 7. Weather equipment

### VI. Radar

- The National Weather Service radar will be the main radar.
- During spotting, the closest National Weather Service station's radar will be used to track storm(s).
- National Weather Service Davenport, Lincoln, or St. Louis's radar will be used depending on track of storm(s).
- If no computers are present for spotting, the radar will be spotter's main information.
- A minimum of one spotter must stay back to monitor radar.
- Spotters must have knowledge of how to monitor radar.
- There will be a rotation for spotters to stay back and monitor radar.
- Spotter(s) who are monitoring radar must have a source of communication.
- Spotter(s) must have up to date maps.

### VIII. Chase

- Each vehicle will have a maximum number of 4 spotters and a minimum of 2 spotters in a car.
- Each vehicle must have a computer. If no computer(s) are present, spotter will help driver for safety concerns.
- One spotter needs to read maps to help driver with travel route.
- One spotter will be in charge of communication for each vehicle. They will also receive information of storm(s) from the radar if no computer(s) are available.
- Spotters must pay attention to weather. Travel plans may be altered if storm(s) are changing rapidly.
- If storm(s) are spotted, with hail, strong winds, or tornadoes, spotters must contact National Weather Service and law enforcement of the area.
- Spotters must stay a safe distance from tornadoes.
- Storm(s) will be documented by digital/video cameras, before, during, and after storm(s) development.

## IX. **Post-Chase**

- Spotters will have a meeting after storm spotting to discuss the storm(s) for that day.
- Spotters will document any information they received from storm spotting. The information will be shared with other spotters and National Weather Service.
- The documented information will be on the Severe Weather Club website.
- Spotters will be analyzing any information collect that day from equipment and National Weather Service.
- Spotters must sign in any equipment that was taken out. Failure in doing so will result in consequences.