

**Environment Canada, Atlantic Region
Toll-free Reporting Line for Severe Weather Events**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What to Report

<u>Event</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Include</u>
blizzards	all occurrences of strong winds and very low visibility due to snow and blowing snow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇨time of onset ⇨aerial extent ⇨wind strength ⇨snow accumulation ⇨public impact (e.g. reduced traffic)
snow squalls	all occurrences of low visibility due to snow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇨time of onset ⇨aerial extent ⇨snow accumulation ⇨public impact (e.g. reduced traffic)
freezing rain	all events of freezing rain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇨time of onset ⇨rainfall rate (light, moderate, heavy) ⇨wind strength
hail	all occurrences – especially when hail is large enough to cause severe damage to property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇨time hail began (and ended) ⇨depth if covering ground ⇨signs of damage (eg: flattened crops, broken windows, dented cars) ⇨hail size (e.g. marble-sized)
damaging wind	wind that is 90 km/h or stronger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇨uprooted trees ⇨moderate or severe structural damage ⇨time wind surge hit ⇨direction and duration (if known)
flooding rains	extremely heavy rain within a relatively short period of time, causing flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇨roads/fields under water ⇨overflowing creeks/ditches ⇨mud slides ⇨near zero visibility during cloudburst ⇨rainfall rate (light, moderate, heavy) amount of snow on ground temperature

<u>Event</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Include</u>
tornado/funnel cloud	all sightings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇨time seen ⇨description of size ⇨distance away ⇨direction of movement ⇨Is debris rising? ⇨Was the funnel shrinking or enlarging? ⇨Was it accompanied by sound, or hail, or damage? ⇨tornado damage discovered in absence of sighted tornado--after the event has passed
waterspout (similar to a tornado, but occurs over water)	all sightings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇨same as a tornado (although the question of rising debris would not apply)
intense lightning	lightning that is intense or extremely frequent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇨How frequent are the flashes of lightning? ⇨distance away (This can be calculated by counting the seconds between flashes of lightning and thunder . Every three seconds represents one kilometre .)
storm surge	abnormally high sea level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇨the location ⇨the height of the sea (above normal) ⇨the state of the sea (high waves, choppy, etc.) ⇨wind strength and direction damage to vessels, wharves, etc.
rotating cloud	all sightings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇨time seen ⇨size ⇨where it was relative to main part of storm

How to Call in Your Report

Dial: **1-877-815-9900** The call will be routed to the nearest weather centre: Gander, NF; Fredericton, NB; or Dartmouth, NS.

Meteorologists will try to answer calls in person. When that is not possible, calls will be routed to a messaging system on which **callers will be asked to provide specific information about the extreme weather events witnessed**. Meteorologists will check

the messaging system quickly and frequently, as the information is very important in their effort to provide timely warnings to the public of dangerous weather events.

You will be asked for the following details:

- Your name and phone number including the area code. *(optional)*
- Where you are calling from.
- What you are reporting – as detailed a description as possible.
- Where it is/was in relation to your location – the direction and distance away.
- *If the event is ongoing...*
 - ◆when the event began
 - ◆the direction in which it seems to be moving
 - ◆the approximate speed at which it appears to be moving
- *If the weather event is over...*
 - ◆when it occurred
 - ◆how long the event lasted
- It is also important to give an indication of the impact of the weather event. Was/is there a danger to life or property?

Sample Report

This is Hank Harley calling from Whoville. I have just sighted a funnel cloud in a storm about five kilometres to my north. It was visible for approximately two minutes, starting at 5:36 p.m., but seems to be disappearing now. The storm seems to be moving from the southwest, and was accompanied by high winds and small, pea-sized hail. I didn't see any damage. You can contact me for additional information at (area code)xxx-nnnn).

When calling in a report, it is very important to speak plainly, relate the details precisely and accurately, and answer any questions that you are asked as precisely as you can. In a severe weather emergency, speed and accuracy can save both you and your neighbours from harm.