



**NWS Wakefield SKYWARN
Amateur Radio Support Team
WX4AKQ Wakefield, VA**

Reading Storm Reports A Tutorial for SKYWARN Volunteers

Revision 1 – January 15, 2011

**Developed and Maintained By
Steve Crow KG4PEQ**

Amateur Radio Coordinator
NWS Wakefield SKYWARN
Steve.Crow@WX4AKQ.org

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 United States License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/us/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 171 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, 94105, USA.

Table of Contents

1: Reading WFO Local Storm Reports.....	3
2: Reading SPC Tornado and Severe Thunderstorm Reports.....	5

1: Reading WFO Local Storm Reports

Selected Spotter reports are entered into a National Weather Service product called the Local Storm Report, or LSR. You can access the last few versions of Wakefield's LSR's at http://emwin.wx4akq.org/awips_lookup.php?awips=LSRAKQ. The LSR provides a recap of major reported weather events within the CWA and is issued periodically throughout the day whenever new reports are received.

A sample LSR is on the next page, with selected portions highlighted and explained. Non-highlighted, colored text is added as an explanation.

EMWIN Product Header:

000
NWUS51 KAKO 11152
LSRAKQ

PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT...SUMMARY
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WAKEFIELD VA
750 AM EDT MON MAY 11 2009
LSR Issue Date and Time

..TIME... ..EVENT... ..CITY LOCATION... ..LAT.LON...
..DATE... ..MAG... ..COUNTY LOCATION..ST... ..SOURCE...
..REMARKS..

0635 PM HAIL CLAREMONT 37.23N 76.97W
05/09/2009 E1.00 INCH SURRY VA TRAINED SPOTTER

Event date and time What happened, measurement, Location County/Independent City GPS Coordinates Report Source

0654 PM HAIL 1 W CREWE 37.18N 78.15W
05/09/2009 E0.75 INCH NOTTOWAY VA TRAINED SPOTTER

"At 6:54 PM on 5/9/2009, Hail was estimated 0.75 inches 1 mile west of Crewe in Nottoway County, VA. Report was from a Trained Spotter, coordinates 37.18N, 78.15W."

0749 PM TSTM WND GST RICHMOND INTERNATIONAL 37.51N 77.32W
05/09/2009 M64.00 MPH HENRICO VA ASOS

GUST TO 64 MPH MEASURED AT THE RICHMOND ASOS AT 749 PM.
"At 7:49 PM on 5/9/2009, a thunderstorm wind gust was measured at 64 miles per hour from the Automated Surface Observation System (ASOS) at Richmond International Airport in Henrico County. The coordinates are 37.51N, 77.32W."

0835 PM TSTM WND DMG WAVERLY 37.03N 77.10W
05/09/2009 SUSSEX VA NWS EMPLOYEE

LARGE TREE BLOWN DOWN ON RTE 460.
"At 8:35 PM on 5/9/2009, a National Weather Service Employee observed thunderstorm wind damage in Sussex County, VA. A large tree was blown down on Route 460 in Waverly. The coordinates are 37.03N, 77.10W."

0855 PM HAIL MATHEWS 37.46N 76.32W
05/09/2009 E0.88 INCH MATHEWS VA AMATEUR RADIO

"At 8:55 PM, an amateur radio operator reported hail estimated at 0.88 inches in the town of Mathews, in Mathews County, VA. The coordinates are 37.46N, 76.32W."

&&

\$\$
End-of-File marker

WAMSLEY
NWS Employee preparing the LSR, in this case, Chris Wamsley

2: Reading SPC Tornado and Severe Thunderstorm Reports

The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) scoops up all of the various Local Storm Reports and periodically issues a Tornado and Severe Thunderstorm Report containing reports from all of the LSR's around the country. A sample report is on the next page, again, with explanations, since the SPC report uses a different format.

EMWIN Product Header:

NWUS22 KWNS 180206

STAHRY

SPC TORNADO AND SEVERE THUNDERSTORM REPORTS
UNOFFICIAL - FOR OFFICIAL REPORTS, SEE PUBLICATION 'STORM DATA'
FOR 06CST SUN MAY 17 2009 THRU 20CST SUN MAY 17 2009

EVENT LOCATION REMARKS (CST)TIME

.....TORNADO REPORTS.....TORNADO REPORTS.....TORNADO REPORTS.....

NONE REPORTED

.....LRG HAIL/STRONG WIND RPTS.....LRG HAIL/STRONG WIND RPTS.....

1 A175 1 WSW WORKMORE GA (38 WSW VDI) 17/1043
FFC/LSR 3193 8296

Report number, in chronological order
Event type and magnitude; "A" means hail; here, "A175" means 1.75 inch hail
Location; here, 1 mile west-southwest of Workmore, Georgia
Distance from nearest city, by city code (38 miles west-southwest of
Vidalia, Georgia/Vidalia Airport)
Date and time of the event; here, 10:43 AM CST on the 17th
Source of the report; here, the Local Storm Report from office FFC, in
Peachtree City, Georgia
Event coordinates; here, 31.93N, 82.96W

6 WNDG 1 WSW WORKMORE GA (38 WSW VDI) 17/1043
AT LEAST FIVE TREES DOWN...SOME ON FENCES. FFC/LSR 3193 8296

"Wind Damage 1 mile west-southwest of Workmore, Georgia; 38 miles west-
southwest of Vidalia, Georgia; at least 5 trees down, some on fences.
Sixth report of the day, occurred 10:43 CST on the 17th, reported in the
Local Storm Report of NWS Peachtree City, Georgia. Event coordinates
are 31.93N, 82.96W"

7 WNDG 7 NNW ICHETUCKNEE SPRIN FL (34 NNE CTY) 17/1145
LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTED 2 SMALL TREES DOWN JAX/LSR 3006 8279

3 A175 10 NE BAXLEY GA (23 SSE VDI) 17/1255
EMA DIRECTOR REPORTED GOLFBALL SIZE HAIL AND JAX/LSR 3187 8223
STRONG WINDS IN NORTHE

"Hail 1.75 inches 10 miles northeast of Baxley, Georgia; 23 miles south-
southeast of Vidalia, Georgia; reported by the EMA Director and filed in
the Local Storm Report at NWS Jacksonville, Florida. Third report of the
day, occurring at 12:55 CST on the 17th. Event coordinates 31.87N, 82.23W"

8 WNDG GLENNVILLE GA (29 SE VDI) 17/1325
TREES AND A POWER LINE DOWN IN GLENNVILLE. TIMECHS/LSR 3194 8193
ESTIMATED FROM RADAR.

.....OTHER SEVERE REPORTS.....OTHER SEVERE REPORTS.....

2 A100 SAVANNAH GA (8 SE SAV) 17/1226

"Hail 1.00 inch 8 miles Southeast of Savannah, Georgia, occurred
12:26 CST on the 17th; second report of the day."

4 A 75 4 S KINGSLAND FL (14 N JAX) 17/1450
SPOTTER REPORT AT THE FLORIDA/GEORGIA VISITORS JAX/LSR 3073 8166
CENTER ALONG I-95 RELA

"Hail 0.75 inches 4 miles south of Kingsland, Florida; 14 miles north of
Jacksonville, reported by a Spotter at 14:50 CST on the 17th. Report filed
in the Local Storm Report by NWS Jacksonville, Florida. Fourth report of
the day. Coordinates 30.73N, 81.66W."

5 A 88 3 NNE LAKESIDE FL (21 SSW JAX) 17/1720
PENNY TO NICKEL SIZE HAIL REPORTED JAX/LSR 3018 8176

\$\$