

ARES and

SKYWARN

SEVERE WEATHER REPORTING CRITERIA

Updated (ed:2006-04-25) to 2008-Feb-20

Localized for Peachtree City WSO



Severe weather reporting ...

TORNADO

FUNNEL CLOUD

ROTATING WALL CLOUD

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM

HAIL > $\frac{3}{4}$ "

WIND > 40 mph

FLASH FLOODING

RAINFALL RATE > 1" / hr



TORNADO

- ▶ Rotating column of air **touching the ground** causing swirls of dust, debris and condensation
- ▶ Funnel bounds may not be visible
- ▶ Normally associated with a strong thunderstorm



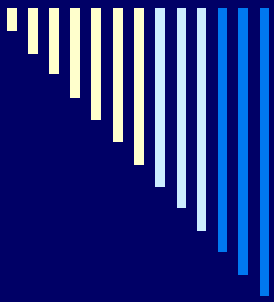
Tornado pre-cursors

▶ ROTATING WALL CLOUDS

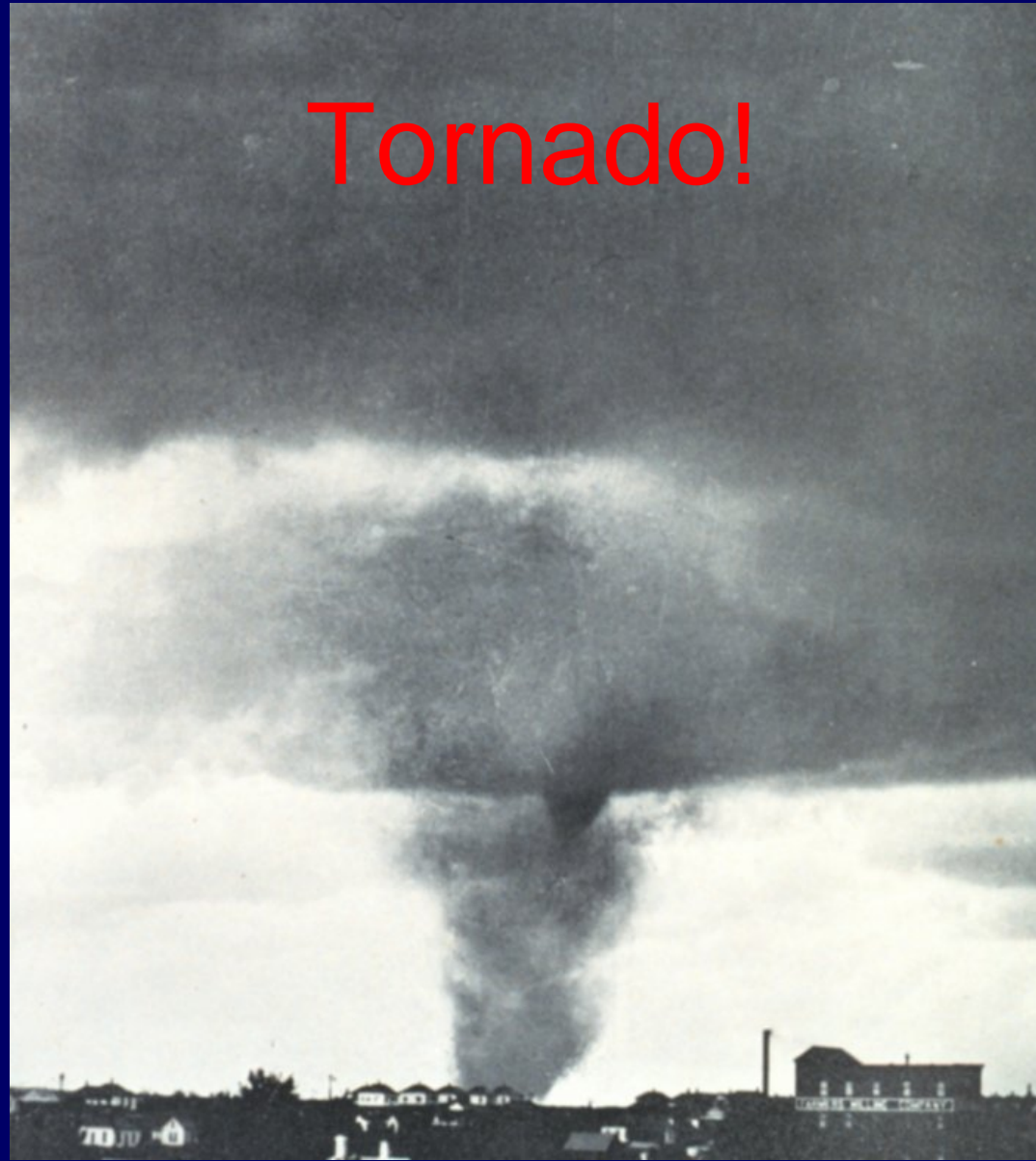
- A cylindrical shaped cloud structure showing **rapid closed rotation**

▶ FUNNEL CLOUDS

- Funnel shaped vortex cloud descending from main cloud base, but **not touching ground**



Tornado!



Tornado without visible funnel





Severe Thunderstorm

▶ Hail

- 3/4 inch or greater
- Penny sized or larger

▶ Wind

- Measured speeds preferred
- Greater than 40 mph - 5 second average
- Downed trees - damaged buildings

▶ Lightning

- Damage to structures or trees
- Power outage (extended)

Baseball sized hail





Flash Flooding

- ▶ Occurs due to rainfall rates of greater than 1 inch per hour ... typically associated with severe thunderstorms
- ▶ Happens within 6 hours of the rain event or as a result of a dam or levee failure
- ▶ Is most often located at "funneling" points of smaller streams or rivers



QRN = Lightning





Report ...

- ▶ *FROM A SAFE LOCATION ...*
- ▶ **WHAT** you saw
- ▶ **WHERE** you saw it
- ▶ **WHEN** you saw it
- ▶ **WHAT IT WAS DOING**
 - Direction, speed, size, destructiveness
- ▶ **WHO** you are
 - Call sign or Spotter number



Do NOT Report ...

- ▶ Rain less than 1 inch per hour
- ▶ Lightning, if no damage
- ▶ Wind less than 40 miles per hour
- ▶ Hail smaller than penny sized (3/4")
- ▶ Situations with authorities already present
- ▶ Information heard on official radio channels
 - Police / fire / EMS / utilities



SKYWARN Net Activation

- ▶ Will be called if Gwinnett County is under a severe weather **WARNING**
- ▶ May be called if Gwinnett County is under a **WATCH** and adverse weather is present in a nearby county
- ▶ May be called if severe weather is spotted which will imminently affect Gwinnett County
- ▶ When requested by NWS or EOC



Reporting method

- ▶ Via Gwinnett County ARES net
 - if not available, then
- ▶ Via an adjacent county ARES net
 - if not available, then
- ▶ Via the regional NWS PTC net
 - if not available, then
- ▶ Direct to NWS PTC by phone
 - 770-486-9269 or 1-866-763-4466