

# Sky Watching

*“Keep informed on fire weather conditions and forecasts.”*  
Standard Fire Order #1

*“When there is an unexpected shift in wind direction or in wind speed.”*  
Common Denominators of Fire Behavior on Tragedy Fires, #3

## Class Exercise:

The refresher video contains three different time lapse weather videos. These time lapse videos are all filmed at the same location but on different days. The video loops are in two parts: one video consists of the morning (approximately 0630 to 1200), and one full day (0630 until the end of the day). When the video pauses at midday, the facilitator will lead a class discussion.

## Time lapse video discussion topics:

- What have you observed up to this point?  
*(General description of the weather, identifiable cloud types, etc.)*
- Based on your previous observations, what do you predict the sky will look like in the afternoon?
- If you were assigned to a fire in this area what sort of activity would you expect in the afternoon?
- How closely did your predictions match the actual outcome?
- How will **you** incorporate more frequent sky watching and weather observations into your daily routine?

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## Want to find out more about sky watching and weather observations?

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- National Weather Service Fire Weather Training Home Page:  
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sew//fire/olm/NWSFWX.htm>

- Videos courtesy of *Australian Severe Weather*:  
[www.australiasevereweather.com](http://www.australiasevereweather.com)

- National Interagency Coordination Center - Predictive Services Weather Page:  
<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive/weather/weather.htm>