

LOW LEVEL CLOUD IDENTIFICATION

Surface to 6,500 ft (2,000 m)

Observer: _____ Date: _____ Location: _____

Illustration / Photo Placeholder

Stratus (St) 0 - 2,000 FT

Uniform featureless gray layer resembling fog that does not reach the ground.

- Horizontal layering
- May produce light drizzle
- Uniform base

Illustration / Photo Placeholder

Stratocumulus (Sc) 1,500 - 6,500 FT

Low, puffy, grayish or whitish sheets with dark patches organized in rows or masses.

- Clumped structure
- No precipitation (usually)
- Breaks of clear sky visible

Illustration / Photo Placeholder

Cumulus (Cu) 1,000 - 6,500 FT

Detached, dense clouds with sharp outlines, developing vertically in "cauliflower" shapes.

- Flat dark base
- Brilliant white tops
- Fair weather indicator

Illustration / Photo Placeholder

Cumulonimbus (Cb) 1,000 - 45,000 FT

Heavy, dense tower-like clouds reaching through all altitude levels.

- Anvil-shaped top
- Thunder and lightning
- Heavy precipitation

Reference Guide for Meteorological Observation Only.