

Major Cloud Types



Cirrus



- Thin, feather-like
- Ice crystals
- High altitudes
- Patches or bands

- If wispy, no significant icing or turbulence
- If dense or in bands, turbulence is likely

Stratus



- Gray, low bases
- Sheet-like
- Usually associated with low pressure systems
- Little, if any turbulence
- Icing possible
- Can be associated with fog and rain

Cumulus



- Convective currents
- Flat bases
- Dome-shaped tops
- Rain not likely

- Turbulence possible
- Icing possible
- Find approximate height of bases by: H=(T-DP)/4.4*

Towering Cumulus



- · Unstable air
- Extensive vertical development
- "Cauliflower" tops

- Severe turbulence likely
- Icing possible
- Rain possible

Cumulonimbus



- Thunderstorms
- Vertically developed
- Cirrus cloud anvil
- Tops 25,000-50,000 feet
- Violent turbulence likely
- Always avoid
- Anvil points in the direction of movement

Lenticular



- Lee side of mountain
- Little movement
- Found on crest of wave activity
- Strong turbulence beneath cloud
- Significant updrafts and downdrafts

For more information, visit ASF's Web site (www.asf.org) or send an e-mail (asf@aopa.org)

^{*} H=thousands of feet AGL, T=surface temperature in °F, DP=dew point in °F Photography credit: NOAA Photo Library