KTS x 1.151 = MPH

MPH x 0.869 = KTS

MPH - KTS Conversion

MPH	KTS
5	4
6	5
10	9
12	10
15	13
17	15
20	17
23	20
25	22
29	25
30	26
35	30

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NOAA National Weather Service

Terminal Air Forecasts (TAFs)

- **Pilots use this when planning flight operations**
- **Gives windows of predicted clouds, temperature, precipitation, winds on the ground and aloft, and predicted periods of wind gusts**
- **NOTE: all information is given in Zulu time**

March - October: Ohio = Zulu - 4 hrs
November – February: Ohio = Zulu – 5 hrs

Above is a link to the aviation TAFs and METARs for airports surrounding KMWO (KCVG and KDAY)

Data Source: National Weather Service

Strengths:

- Provides cloud layers and ground wind direction/strength predictions
- General area weather

Weaknesses:

- Only available for major airports; KMWO is between CVG and DAY and often has slightly different weather
- Only update every 6 hrs
- Need to calculate Zulu

AirNav.com

and

Automated Weather Observation Station (AWOS)

KMWO: (513)422-3505

- Link is for AirNav: a resource for finding airport data for any registered airport
- An AWOS is a physical weather observation tower installed at some airports
- If an airport has an AWOS on site, its phone number will be on the airport's AirNav listing
- For KMWO: call (513)422-3505 for a readout of current weather

Data Source: **KMWO AWOS**

Strengths:

- Very specific to MWO
- Near real time
- Cloud, visibility, and wind/gust readings
- Detects lightning in vicinity

Weaknesses:

- Does not predict weather
- Screen in packing hangar needs refreshing for current data

Winds Aloft by Mark Schulze

- Possibly the most used weather resource by skydivers
- Weather prediction that uses a mathematical algorithm to predict winds and temperature at altitude.

Data Source: NOAA Rapid Refresh modeling system; if down, Schulze pulls from alternative sources and makes a note at the top of the page

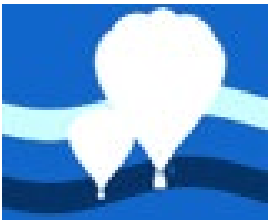
Strengths:

- Winds predictions for all altitudes
- Very specific to location
- Provides air temperature predictions at altitude
- Scroll to the bottom and click “See Raw Data” to find more accurate wind sheer and
- Can click “+1 hr” at the top to see predictions

Weaknesses:

- Ground winds are not good predictions
- Temperatures given in ºC

Ryan Carlton Balloonists' Wind Forecast



- Winds aloft forecast used by hot air balloonists

Data Source: **NOAA Rapid Refresh modeling system**

Strengths:

- Winds predictions for all altitudes
- Very specific to location (when at an airport)
- Provides air temperature predictions at altitude
- Can view multiple hours at once
- Can click an arrow on the right side to see future predictions

Weaknesses:

- Ground winds are not good predictions
- When not at an airport, must find a nearby airport as data source

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Windy (WindyTV)

Windy.com

Website (good for radar)

- General weather app geared toward outdoor sports enthusiasts who need ground wind data

App

Data Source: Provides multiple to choose from (NWS, Euro model, NASA, Eumetsat, etc.

Strengths:

- Ground gust predictions
- Radar visualization
- Can use overseas

Weaknesses:

- Less intuitive to use
- Winds aloft data is available but tougher to find

Spot Assist

- Specifically designed by and for skydivers

Data Source:

Strengths:

- Very visual
- Helps with spotting to determine how far you can exit from the DZ and still have a high chance of making it back
- Provides visual of canopy flight
- Ability to choose canopy type and wing loading (and thus takes glide ratio into account)
- Can use overseas

Weaknesses:

- Does not produce weather predictions
- Canopy types are generalizations
- Fairly generic information provided

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"...Eagerly I share useful knowledge with others..."

Have a favorite weather source or application to share with other skydivers?

Email info@startskydiving.com
(Subject line: "Weather Resources")
with the following information:

- Name of website/application
- Description
- Data source it uses (if you know)
- Strengths of the site
- Weaknesses of the site

Thanks for sharing your knowledge!

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Cloud Clearance Regulations

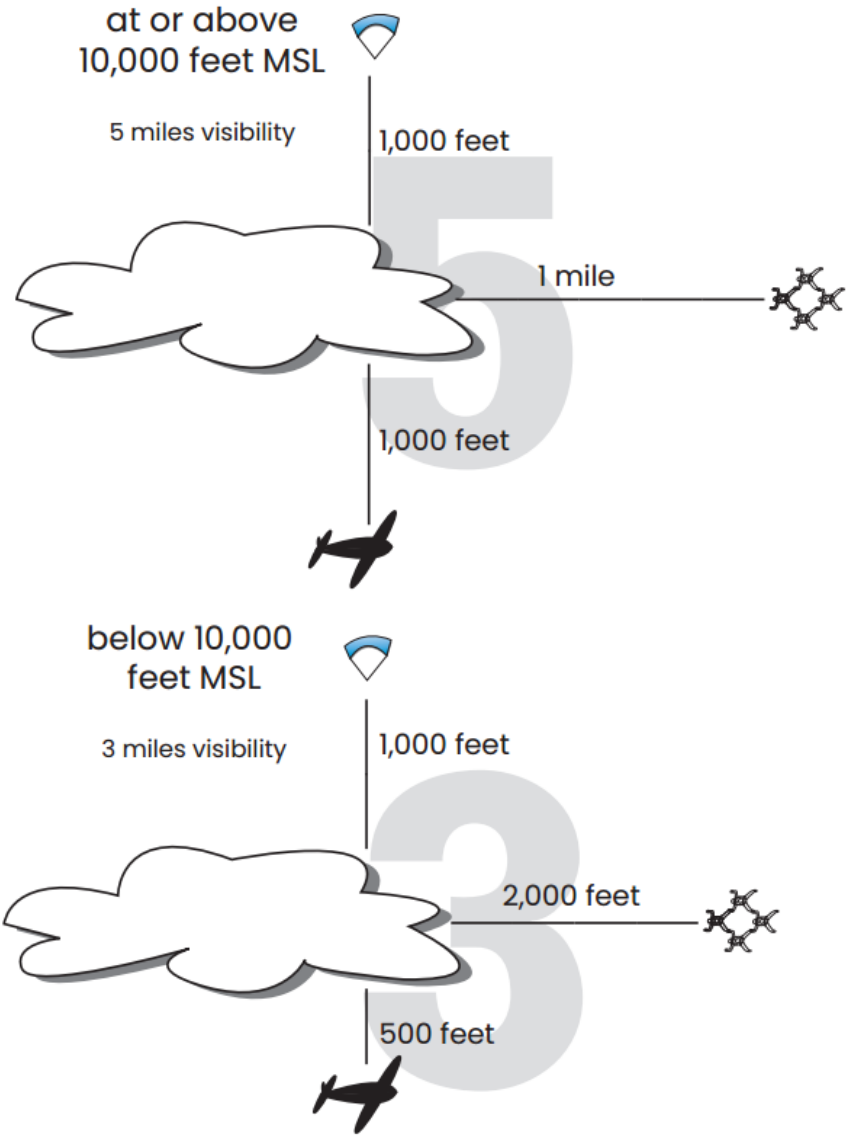

Illustration 4-D.1: Jumpers must observe the FAA requirements for visibility and clearance from clouds to avoid other aircraft flying over the drop zone.