HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS IN AVIATION: ICING.

Aircraft icing is one of the major weather hazards in aviation.
It reduces aircraft efficiency by increasing weight, reducing lift, decreasing thrust, and increasing drag.
Other icing effects include false indications on flight instruments, loss of radio communications, and loss of operation of brakes and landing gear.

The condition for very hazardous icing is the presence of many large, supercooled water drops. Small water droplets occur most often in fog and low level clouds.
Forecasters can identify regions in which icing is possible. However, they cannot define the precise small pockets in which it occurs.
Pilots should plan their flight to avoid those areas where icing probably will be heavier than aircraft can handle.

The man on the ground has no way of observing actual icing conditions. His knowledge of the existence or absence of icing comes from pilots.

Here are a few specific points to remember:

- Before takeoff, pilot should check weather for possible icing areas. Pilot can ask for other pilot reports, and if possible talk to other pilots who have flown along their proposed route.

- Ice or frost should be always removed from airfoils before takeoff.