

# **SEVERE WEATHER NET**

## **Standard Operating Procedure**



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### **WASHINGTON CO. ARES SKYWARN**

#### **Preparation**

All Amateurs are encouraged to monitor developing weather by monitoring news media, and NOAA weather radio (162.400 MHz).

If conditions indicate that severe weather will develop within a few hours, Amateurs should monitor the 147.045 MHz repeater.

#### **Activation Procedures**

The following steps should be taken to activate an Amateur Radio response to a probable severe weather event:

1. Attempt to notify the EC for permission to activate a Skywarn net and trained spotters.
2. Designate a Net Control Station (NCS) and establish the net on the 147.045 MHz repeater. Amateurs monitoring the repeater should be requested to check in with net control identifying their location and if in fixed or mobile operation.

#### **Net Control**

The NCS should establish contact with NWS either by using the 800 spotter phone number (give your spotter ID #) or by radio to NWS personnel to relay spotter reports.

NCS should be monitoring doppler radar and provide weather observations to Amateurs in Washington county and adjacent counties.

If possible connect the 147.045 Mhz repeater via Echolink to the Muscatine repeater 146.910 Mhz (Node #52761) via DTMF using microphone. To disconnect send "#"

NCS should keep a log of all active spotters for each weather event.

- The times reports are called in
- their callsign
- their location ie: crossroads, 911 address, or lastly landmarks.
- whether stationary or mobile
- whether ARES membership and county affiliation
- The log should have start time and net closing time

NCS should sign, date and deliver to Washington Co. EC.

## **NET CONTROL SUMMER SCRIPT (3-23-18)**

SKYWARN is Activated. "This is \_\_\_\_\_ (call sign) Net Control for SKYWARN in contact with the National Weather Service in Davenport, Iowa. All SKYWARN spotters are requested to check their equipment and back up power supplies at this time."

### **(IF in WATCH mode READ EVERY 30 MINUTES)**

*"The National Weather Service has indicated that there is a THREAT for SEVERE WEATHER within the listening area of this repeater. (Read the list of watches if possible). This SKYWARN net is in Standby mode, and amateurs may use the repeater. Please keep transmissions short with breaks to permit severe weather reports to reach SKYWARN."*

### **(IF in WARNING mode READ EVERY 15 MINUTES, BREAKING INTERMITTENTLY FOR WARNINGS AND REPORTS)**

*"The National Weather Service has indicated that SEVERE WEATHER IS OCCURRING within the listening area of this repeater. (Read the list of warnings if possible) SKYWARN is currently activated as a directed net."*

*"All amateurs are encouraged to call SKYWARN with reports of severe weather. When calling SKYWARN Net Control please give your Spotter ID if you have one, and indicate the exact location where severe weather is occurring. This includes city AND state, nearest town, road, or intersection. Please do not use landmarks. Major roadways are OK."*

*"The National Weather Service is looking for reports of the following:*

- Tornadoes, funnel clouds, rotating or non-rotating wall clouds*
- Hail (please give the size as compared to US coins)*
- Wind gusts in excess of 50 miles per hour measured with an anemometer.*
- Flooding of streams, creeks, or rivers out of their banks*
- Roads, or streets made impassable due to water*
- An inch or more of rain accumulation measured in rain gauge*
- Any damage by wind or lightning.*
- Downed trees or branches (giving branch diameter), or power lines"*

*"Please do not call SKYWARN if there are none of these severe weather events occurring in your area. Any station experiencing one of these severe weather events call SKYWARN Net Control at this time."*

*"This is \_\_\_\_\_ (call sign), over."*

## WASHINGTON CO. ARES SKYWARN NET CONTROL WINTER SCRIPT

SKYWARN is Activated. "This is \_\_\_\_\_ (call sign) Net Control for SKYWARN in contact with the National Weather Service in Davenport, Iowa. All SKYWARN spotters are requested to check their equipment and back up power supplies at this time."

### **(In WATCH mode: READ EVERY 30 MINUTES)**

*"The National Weather Service has indicated that there is a THREAT for SEVERE WINTER WEATHER within the listening area of this repeater. (Read the list of watches if possible) SKYWARN is in Standby mode, and amateurs may use the repeater. Please keep transmissions short with breaks to permit severe weather reports to reach SKYWARN."*

### **(In WARNING mode: READ EVERY 15 MINUTES, BREAKING INTERMITTENTLY FOR WARNINGS AND REPORTS)**

*"The National Weather Service has indicated that SEVERE WINTER WEATHER IS OCCURRING within the listening area of this repeater. (Read the list of warnings if possible) SKYWARN is currently activated as a directed net."*

*"All amateurs are encouraged to call SKYWARN with reports of severe weather. When calling SKYWARN Net Control please give your Spotter ID, if you have one, and indicate the exact location where severe weather is occurring. This includes city AND state, nearest town, road, or intersection. Please do not use landmarks. Major roadways are ok."*

*"The National Weather Service is looking for reports of the following:*

- Snow accumulation in inches*
- Any ice accumulation on trees, streets, or power lines*
- Sleet or freezing rain*
- Wind gusts in excess of 35 miles per hour measured using an anemometer.*
- Impassable or closed roads*
- Downed trees, large branches, or power lines.*
- Any other storm-related damage.*

*"Please do not call SKYWARN if none of these severe weather events is occurring in your area. Any station experiencing one of these severe weather events call SKYWARN Net Control at this time."*

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**(Read this portion once during the hourly NCS announcement,  
or as directed by the Net Manager AB0DX)**

*In the event of a repeater outage on this frequency, our primary backup repeater is 443.700 and ARES simplex frequency 146.415. Stations are requested to QSY to a listed backup frequency."*

*"This is \_\_\_\_\_ (call sign), over."*

## **ARES SKYWARN Report Mode Net Script**

**REPORT Mode = Read informally every 30 to 60 minutes**

**NOTE:** (REPORT Mode is **VERY** informal, and is used primarily for LISTENING for reports. Reading the script is only customary at best and is not time-critical)

Skywarn is now ACTIVE in **REPORT Mode only**. "This is \_\_\_\_\_ (call sign) in contact with the National Weather Service in Davenport, Iowa. Report Mode is an informal net that is used during severe weather situations that do not warrant a directed Skywarn Severe Weather Net. There is currently no Net Control, but we are monitoring the frequency for severe weather reports."

"The National Weather Service has indicated that there is a **THREAT** for **SEVERE WEATHER** within the listening area of this repeater. (Read the list of watches if possible) SKYWARN is in **Report Mode only**, and the repeater is available for use by amateurs. It is very helpful if transmissions are kept short and the repeater squelch tail is allowed to drop all the way out between transmissions"

"When calling SKYWARN, please give your Spotter ID if you have one, and indicate the exact location of the event you are reporting. This includes city AND state, nearest town, road, or intersection. Please do not use landmarks. Major roadways are OK."

**(Read the appropriate table below. NOT both!)**

### **Summer Criteria: for summer Skywarn nets only**

"The National Weather Service is looking for reports of the following:

- Tornadoes, funnel clouds, or rotating wall clouds
- Hail (please give the size as compared to US coins)
- Wind gusts in excess of 50 miles per hour measured with an anemometer
- Flooding of streams, creeks, or rivers out of their banks
- Roads, or streets made impassable due to water
- An inch or more of rain accumulation measured in rain gauge.
- Any damage by wind or lightning
- Downed trees, large branches, or power lines"

### **Winter Criteria: for winter Skywarn nets only**

"The National Weather Service is looking for reports of the following:

- Snow accumulation in inches
- Any ice accumulation on trees, streets, or power lines
- Sleet or freezing rain
- Wind gusts in excess of 35 miles per hour measured with an anemometer.
- Impassable or closed roads"
- Downed trees, large branches, or power lines,
- Any other storm-related damage.

"Please do not call SKYWARN if none of these severe weather events are occurring in your area. Any station that is experiencing one of these severe weather events please call \_\_\_\_\_ (call sign) at this time."

"This is \_\_\_\_\_ (call sign), over."

## **SKYWARN NET CONTROL CLOSING SCRIPT** (3-23-18)

### **Close of the Net**

*"This is \_\_\_\_\_ (call sign) Net Control for SKYWARN in contact with the National Weather Service in Davenport, Iowa."*

*"On behalf of the National Weather Service and the SKYWARN program, we would like to thank the W0ARC Washington Area Amateur Radio Club for the use of their system, and the amateur community for giving SKYWARN traffic priority and for participating in SKYWARN severe weather nets."*

*"The SKYWARN Amateur Radio Net is now secured at \_\_\_\_\_ (time) and the repeater is returned to normal service. This is \_\_\_\_\_ (call sign), clearing the frequency."*