

WASHINGTON COUNTY SKYWARN NET

Calling the Washington County Skywarn net. Calling the Washington county Skywarn net. This is (your call) net control. This is a directed net. This net has been activated for a (state type of Activation) issued by the national weather service in Pittsburgh. The national weather service will be looking for reports on the following: (See below for Type of activation and report criteria).

When checking into the net please give your call sign phonetically & then give your name & location. Please notify net control before leaving the net. We will now take check-ins, call (your call sign), net control.

NET CLOSING

This has been the Washington county Skywarn net. We will be closing the net at this time because the (state type of Activation) has expired as of (give time). We would like to thank all who checked in and those who gave us a clear frequency to operate on. Please continue to monitor this frequency in case we are activated again. This is (your call sign) closing the Skywarn net at (give current time) & turning the frequency back to general amateur use.

Summer criteria for Skywarn net reporting

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| 1. Tornadoes. Funnel clouds, or rotating wall clouds |
| 2. Hail any size (please give the size as compared to US coins) |
| 3. Wind gusts in excess of 50 MPH and means of measurement. |
| 4. Flooding of streams, creeks, or rivers out of their banks |
| 5. Roads or streets made impassable do to water |
| 6. An inch or more of rain accumulation in 1 hour measured in a rain gauge, Total for storm |
| 7. Any damage by wind or lightning |
| 8. Downed trees, large branches, or power lines |

Winter criteria for Skywarn net reporting

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| 1. Snow accumulation in inches (When (new) snow accumulation reaches 2 inches Then at 4 inches, 6, 9, 12, etc) inches, and every 3 inches thereafter , Give a final report/total at the end of the storm, Thunder Snow - time and location. |
| 2. Any ice accumulation on trees, streets. Or power lines, Accumulation of 1/4" or more |
| 3. Sleet or freezing rain |
| 4. Wind gusts in excess of 35 MPH and means of measurement |
| 5. Impassable or closed roads |
| 6. Downed trees, large branches, or power lines |
| 7. Any other storm related damage of Flooding, Ice Jams or snow melts, General Winter Reports When forecast differs significantly from observed (i.e. snowing with no snow in forecast, sleet...when only snow is forecast...) Any other significant weather occurrence(i.e. damage from strong winds not associated with a thunderstorm |

Remember to always give the three most important parts of a report

- 1. TIME - TIME OF OCCURRENCE**

2. EVENT - HAIL, TORNADO, FUNNEL CLOUD, ETC.
 3. LOCATION - COUNTY AND DIRECTION/DISTANCE FROM NEAREST TOWN
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Net activation to STANDBY

When used: When a Severe Thunderstorm Watch or Advisory has been issued, but no weather activity is occurring in the area. Note the expiration time of the watch.

A net control station will then be established and take and log check-ins. Now is the best time to establish where potential observers are located for the upcoming event, not when the severe weather is hitting. The net control station will also relay watch information frequently. Normal use of the repeater will continue, however, please leave a pause between transmissions should net control need to break in to take the net to a higher level.

Net control should get the ham's call sign, availability, and their location. If station is mobile Net Control should determine where that station is heading.

As the storms approach your area, the net may need to be fully activated. There are three levels of full activation.

Net Activation to **CONDITION GREEN**

When used: Used during ALL Tornado Watches and during Severe Thunderstorm Watches when active weather is occurring.

Nets for Flood/Flash Flood Watches are normally not required. There may be exceptions when the NWS would request additional spotter reports, ex. remnants of a tropical storm moving through the area.

The first priority, during condition **green**, would be taking and relaying weather reports to the NWS. Second would be check-ins. The Net Control Station takes control of frequency and gives frequent updates on net status and weather watches. Prepare for further upgrade as storms approach or if severe weather reports begin coming in.

Net Activation to **CONDITION YELLOW**

When used: If a SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING and/or FLASH FLOOD WARNING has been issued for your county.

Priority must be given to collecting and relaying weather reports, No check-ins or checkouts at this time. Net Control will announce warning information frequently. Only reports meeting the criteria mentioned earlier should be requested. "It's not raining here" reports are not needed, unless requested.

Net Activation to **CONDITION RED**

When used: If a TORNADO WARNING has been issued for your county.

Net Control Station takes total control of frequency. Net Control requests tornado, funnel cloud and wall cloud reports. If there are no tornadic reports, Net Control requests reports meeting the above criteria. Stations without one of the above reports should maintain radio silence. Net control will relay Tornado Warning information frequently.

Condition **RED** events are rare. However, real emergency organization in these instances is what will make the NWS, trained spotters and all licensed amateurs involved with ARES fulfill their missions and shine.