

Coshocton County Skywarn Network

Weather Net Procedures

CCSN conducts two types of on-air nets, a weekly **Training and Readiness Net** and **Severe Weather Nets** as needed. Both nets are Directed Nets. A Net Control Station (NCS) manages all communications during the net. During Severe Weather Nets please keep transmissions short and to the point. DO NOT LEAVE the net without telling NCS.

Training and Readiness Net

Weekly training nets are conducted from March through September Monday nights during the ARES net, which begins at 9PM local time on 145.230 mhz. The nets purpose is to inform Skywarn volunteers of current procedures during a **Severe Weather Net** and to give Weather spotters the opportunity to test equipment and transmissions to the repeater(s) and on simplex as well. This will help ensure everyone's operating circumstances are in good order when the need arises. If at all possible, try to operate at your station on emergency power, as commercial ac is often interrupted during severe weather. You can also test your mobile operating conditions at this time. Please check into the **Training and Readiness Net** with your full call sign and location.

Conduct of the Training and Readiness Net

- 1 "This is ___ Net Control." Announce any current watches or warnings.
- 2 NCS will ask, "are any stations experiencing severe weather."
- 3 NCS "We will now take check-ins. Please Check-in using your **call sign and location**." NC assign Backup NC. "is there anyone to a backup NCS?" _____
Net control will acknowledge checkins, requesting any additional information they need. For Mobile users, the location you provide should be the nearest major intersection or landmark. Where it is possible for two streets to intersect with each other more than once, clearly identify which intersection (2nd and Walnut, Coshocton). For the purpose of this Net and for Security reasons, home fixed stations or in home portables need only to give there City or Town location. After taking check-ins, announcements are made and a short training session may be shared.
- 4 Net Control "Are there any announcements or priority traffic."
- 5 NCS asks, "are there any stations that could monitor ___ frequency(s) and act as a liaison". Frequencies could include the various Coshocton backup frequencies, NWS WX frequency of 162.475 or 162.425 and the 146.665, pl 114.8 repeater in Harrison Co. Oh. used to pass WX info to the NWS Pittsburgh. During severe WX the 146.665 repeater is monitored by NWS Pittsburgh for Wx reports from Coshocton and Tuscarawas Co. Oh.
- 6 NCS or assigned person. "We will now conduct a training exercise."
- 7 NCS, "Are there any questions and comments." (Announcements can be made at this time regarding WX or other related Amateur Radio events).
- 8 The Net ends with NC, "the Current Forecast or Severe Weather Outlook is ___."
- 9 NC, "I Thank all who participated during the net and will return the frequency to regular amateur use."

Severe Weather Net

STANDBY MODE: This mode is activated if a **Severe Thunderstorm Watch** or **Tornado Watch** has been issued by the National Weather Service for Coshocton County or if deemed advisable by County/City government or by the EC or AEC. No warning has been issued in this mode. At this time initialize the calling tree appropriate for Skywarn. Link the repeater. Enable Echolink. Check-ins will be taken at this time. Ask for full call sign and location and wait for instructions from the NCS. Appoint backup NCS. Appoint station to monitor WX conditions, including radar, in direction of severe WX and inform the Coshocton Co EMA and net participants of any severe WX conditions in those adjacent counties.

SEVERE WEATHER MODE: This mode is activated if a **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** or a **Tornado Warning** has been issued by the National Weather Service for Coshocton County or if a Skywarn spotter or County/City agency is experiencing any of the Severe Weather CRITERIA listed below. This net will gather severe weather reports by Skywarn spotters as defined by the Severe weather CRITERIA only. These reports are relayed to NWS Pittsburgh by NC or a designated NWS liaison station from the net. Reports are also given to the Coshocton County EMA. NCS will not be taking check-ins at this time. If you are experiencing severe WX as defined by the criteria, please call Net Control by using your suffix and Keyword. Report: **Time, Event and Location** of severe WX.

Severe Weather Criteria is defined as:

- **Tornado** Violently rotating column of air descending from a cumulonimbus cloud, and touching the ground. If possible report any injuries or fatalities.
- **Funnel Cloud** A “rotating” appendage descending from the base of a cumulonimbus cloud, but not touching the ground. If possible, always look at the area beneath the funnel cloud for flying debris. If flying debris is observed, it is a tornado.
- **Wind Speeds** Report wind speeds greater than **40mph**
- **Damage** Report all storm-related damage (large branches, fallen trees, structural damage, flood damage, etc.) Even if it is several days after the event.
- **Hail** Report **penny (3/4in.) size HAIL or larger**. Specify the diameter based on the hail scale.
- **Flooding** Report any flooding you observe, including basement, road, stream, creek, and ice jam flooding. Report the name of the stream/creek, road number/name (if applicable) and depth.
- **Rainfall** Report when you receive **one inch** (and then at least **every inch thereafter**)
- **Snowfall** **After 2 inches** of new snow, and then at 4”,6” & every 3” thereafter.
- **Freezing Rain** As soon as you observe freezing rain/drizzle, especially if it starts to collect on objects. Call again if the glaze/ice accumulation exceeds 1/4inch.
- **Thunder Snow** Location and Time of occurrence

Damage Reports should generally be Held until Net Control requests them Unless:

- Damage occurred within the last 10 minutes
- Damage is substantial
- Damage clearly indicates an intense storm
- Damage has created a life threatening situation

If you have a Damage Report that fits these guidelines, call Net Control and use the keywords "**Damage Report.**" This information can help the NWS issue accurate warnings for areas in the path of the storm.

Conduct of the **Severe Weather Net**

- 1 The Net begins by a **10 Second** Touch Tone-Digit "5", after Receiving a **Severe Thunderstorm/Tornado Watch or Warning** from NWS or can be initiated by an in-county report of **Severe Weather conditions**.
- 2 "This is _____, Net Control for the Coshocton Co Skywarn Network."
- 3 Net Control will make an *announcement about the current weather situation*.
- 4 Net Control (**NCS**), "Are any stations experiencing any **Severe Weather** conditions" from the SEVERE WEATHER CRITERIA listed above.
- 5 If no stations respond, Net Control (**NCS**) will ask, "any stations in the **Affected Area** please Report those conditions to NC"
- 6 As further updates are received from the **NWS** they will be passed along to all Listening stations by WX liaison or NC.
- 7 **If a Funnel Cloud or Touchdown is reported, the Weather Net, if not already there, will go into SEVERE WEATHER MODE. In this Emergency Mode, Priority will be given to stations reporting and tracking the Funnel Cloud or Tornado. Other stations should Hold their transmissions until cleared by Net Control.**
- 8 "Stations wishing to join the net, give your callsign and location. " checkins taken during **standby mode**. (no check-ins taken during warnings) Appoint Backup Net Control during **standby mode**.
- 9 Request during **standby-by mode** or if needed during **Severe Wx mode** "Is there a station that can Monitor the _____ Repeater(s) and act as a Liaison?" (frequencies of interest: 147.045,146.490, Harrison co.146.665 pl 114.8), **Monitor repeaters from the direction of Wx. A station needs to monitor NWS radars :Wilmington-Cleveland-Pittsburgh. A station needs to maintain liaison and send immediate reports to the Coshocton Co. EMA.**

10 Maintain a liaison station to send reports to Pittsburgh NWS and have someone monitor the Pittsburgh NWS broadcast on 162.425 or 162.475 .

11 Depending on current weather conditions, Net Control may ask for damage reports. These can be relayed to NWS and EMA.

12 After all Warnings have Expired from Coshocton Co. and Net Control has received no further reports of Severe Weather, NCS should account for all participants and then end the net. Net Control will provide an update on current and expected weather conditions as the Net is terminated.

13 NC,“ I Thank the nets participants and return the frequency to regular amateur use.”

SAFETY

All stations should follow basic safety rules while engaged in spotting storms. Heed all warnings issued by the NWS. Each spotter is responsible for his or her own safety. Remember to keep a low profile during lightning events and during possible tornado events.

***Spotters participate in SKYWARN activities at their own risk!
Use common sense when driving in hazardous weather conditions and be aware of dangers associated with severe weather. Your safety and families safety and the safety of others should be your first priority.***

Jan 2008 Rev.

March 12, 2009 rev. see rainfall report: Rainfall now reportable at one inch...

Feb 2015 hail repots penny size $\frac{3}{4}$ inch or larger.. Revised