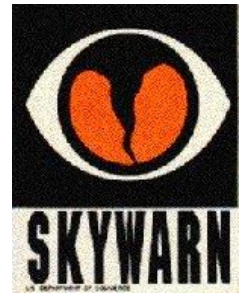




**Shelby County
Amateur Radio Emergency Services
800 Fair Road
Sidney, Ohio 45365**



SEVERE WEATHER NET CONTROL PROCEDURES

The Shelby County A.R.E.S. Skywarn net is now activated. All casual traffic is requested to please stand by until this net is secured.

The net control operator for this Shelby Co. Skywarn Net is (CALL), the name is (NAME), I am located in (CITY). (Net Control Ops, your Tactical Call Sign will be, **Shelby Skywarn**, make sure you give your call every 10 minutes)

All check-ins are requested to please stand-by until you are excused by net control.

I will now appoint a Shelby County Liaison to the Dayton Skywarn Net on 146.835, Are there any volunteers for Liaison? (Record liaison information on log sheet).

1. I will now appoint a Liaison to the Sidney Police Dept., And Shelby Co. Sheriff (Preferably an ARES AEC) are there any volunteers for Liaison to Sidney PD, and Sheriff? (Have Liaison report only significant changes in weather, **DO NOT GIVE ADVICE TO SET OFF SIRENS**, record liaison name and call on log sheet).
2. Phone Sidney PD 498-2351 Shelby Co. Sheriff 498-1111

The National Weather Service has issued a _____, for the counties of _____.
(Read Weather Report From NWS as reported by NWS)

The weather conditions, for which you should report, would be of the following.

- Tornadoes on the Ground
- Funnel Clouds or Wall Clouds
- Any Clouds With Rotation

If time permits, please observe these clouds for a couple of minutes to be sure of what you are reporting. Also report.

- Hail **1/4** inch or Larger (**Pea** size). Report if the hail is covering the ground and/or is quickly melting.
- Wind Speeds over 40 MPH (measured or estimated)
- Flooding or Flash Flooding
- Any Damage Caused by the Severe Weather. Please be short, but specific; also give the time that the damage occurred.

We will now take check-ins. All check-ins please give your Call Phonetically, your Name, your Location, and your Report if any. If you *do not* have any of the weather conditions mentioned, please say "NO REPORT AT THIS TIME".

Check-ins, Please call Shelby Skywarn, Net Control. (Periodically repeat reporting conditions)

The National Weather Service is allowing us to secure this net. I want to thank all stations that checked in. This is (CALL), with Shelby County Skywarn, turning the frequency back to normal Amateur use. THANK YOU.

Revised Shelby County SKYWARN/Severe Weather Net Procedures - 7/16/13

I. Track potential storms in advance

A. Tracking by:

1. Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC) SKYWARN
2. Designated operator assigned by AEC SKYWARN, Emergency Coordinator, or Director of Emergency Management.

B. Storms tracked:

1. Daily during peak times of severe weather
2. Every second day during non-peak times

C. Information from:

1. NOAA All-Hazards Radio (KXB95, Cridersville, OH on 162.400MHz)
2. News Media (The Weather Channel, local television or broadcast radio stations)
3. Internet sources (National Weather Service Office, Wilmington, OH <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/iln/>; Storm Prediction Center , Norman OK <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/>)

D. Notify spotter team if there is a good chance of severe weather occurring in the area within the next two days.

II. Start nets when notified about impending weather by:

A. All Hazards Radio

B. News media

C. Activation of ARES pagers

D. Internet sources

E. Weather Statements read over Amateur Radio repeaters:

1. 146.835 MHz (primary) K8ZUK
2. 443.200 MHz (secondary) KC8BCY

F. If a neighboring county or a county on the far side of the neighboring county has a warning issued for that county: Auglaize, Mercer, Darke, Miami, Logan, or Champaign.

G. At the discretion of the AEC SKYWARN, Assistant AEC SKYWARN, Emergency Coordinator, any Assistant Emergency Coordinator, or the Director of the County Emergency Management Agency.

III. Net Control Station (NCS) Tasks

A. Note the type of threat

B. Note the type of net to be established

1. Non-directed Net - severe weather is expected but not imminent in Shelby County, the threat is greater than fifteen minutes from entering Shelby County, or a warning has been issued for an area further than one county away. Normal amateur radio traffic will not be interrupted during these nets.
2. Directed Net - activated when severe weather is expected and is imminent for Shelby County, the threat is within fifteen minutes of entering the county, or a warning is issued for a neighboring county. Normal amateur radio traffic is suspended until the severe weather event has passed. Stations must request permission from Net Control Station to pass traffic. Directed net is accompanied by activation of Amateur Radio tone pagers.

C. Establishing the Net

1. Net Control Station will take control of the net and will read from SKYWARN Net Activation instructions (Encl).
2. NCS will assign a liaison to the following agencies:
 - a. for weather: Dayton SKYWARN (W8OK) or NWS Wilmington
 - b. Law Enforcement: Sidney Police Department and Shelby County Sheriff's Department. Duties of law enforcement liaison are to make officials aware of weather situations, but **do not request activation of tornado warning sirens.**
3. Take check-ins from spotter stations.
4. Net Control will follow the Severe Weather Net Control Procedures outlined on the Net Activation Sheet.
 - a. Net Control will maintain a log of spotter reports (Encl) and file reports in the SKYWARN binder when the severe weather event has passed.
 - b. Net Control will periodically notify amateur radio operators that a directed net is active on the frequency in order to ensure that the frequency remains open for weather reporting traffic.
 - c. Net Control will broadcast weather statements issued by the National Weather Service, updating those statements as they are received from the National Weather Service.
5. NOTE: If Dayton SKYWARN (W8OK) activates on the 146.835 repeater, Net Control will shift operations to the KC8BCY repeater (443.200+, Tone 156.6Hz), and will act as liaison with Dayton SKYWARN on the 146.835 repeater until released by Dayton SKYWARN, using the tactical call sign SHELBY SKYWARN.
 - a. Dayton SKYWARN assumption of NCS on the 146.835 repeater will be indicated by changing the repeater end-of-transmission beep from two dashes (the letter "M") to two dots (the letter "I"). Shelby County NCS assist Dayton SKYWARN in changing this beep if requested to do so by Dayton SKYWARN.

D. Change of Net Control Station

1. Net Control Station can be changed when the following conditions occur:
 - a. loss of primary NCS. In the event primary NCS is lost, EC will assign a new NCS until primary NCS is back on the air.
 - 1) Note: Any Amateur Radio operator may assume duty as NCS, provided that there is no confusion as to who has assumed NCS duties. Once primary NCS is back on the air, NCS will shift to the primary station.

E. Use of Multiple-Access Radio Communications System (MARCS)

1. MARCS V system will be used to contact NWS Wilmington only when Dayton SKYWARN (W8OK) is not active and telephone lines into NWS Wilmington are busy.
2. Instructions for MARCS V use:
 - a. Using the Mode button on the MARCS radio console, press the right arrow until "Wilmington NWS" shows in the display.

- b. Press the PTT button on the microphone, listen for the double beep, and then speak clearly, “Wilmington Weather this is Shelby EMA”. Release the PTT button and wait for a response. Repeat request if you do not receive a reply within a reasonable length of time. Remember to wait for the double beep before starting to talk.

F. News Media Sources

1. NCS should review available information from various media and internet sources for updates on the weather system, and report updates to the net as conditions change.
 - a. Media Sources include The Weather Channel, WHIO-TV, WLWD-TV, WMVR-FM radio (105.5MHz),
 - b. Internet sources include NWS Wilmington (<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/iln/>); Storm Prediction Center, Norman, OK (<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/>), as well as applications installed on personal computers in the Communications Room, such as GRLevelX, WeatherTap, etc.)

G. Spotter’s Reports

1. NCS will track spotter locations and enter them into the log, along with any reports the spotters relay to NCS.
 - a. If the report meets NWS criteria for reporting to NWS, NCS will relay the report to Dayton SKYWARN (W8OK) via 146.835 repeater, or through other available means of communication listed above.
2. Spotters are encouraged to remain in a safe location and not become storm chasers. Storm chasing is a highly skilled and dangerous activity and requires at least two persons, one to drive the vehicle and the other to watch for sudden changes in weather events.
 - a. additionally, by remaining in a fixed location, NCS is better able to track spotters’ locations and reports.

H. Reports to Emergency Management Agency

1. NCS or liaison will report any storm damage to the Director of Emergency Management or their designee and to the National Weather Service. Ensure that reports include accurate and specific location of the damage, if possible, to assist in later investigation.

IV. Spotters’ Responsibilities

A. Reporting into the SKYWARN Net

1. Spotters check into the SKYWARN net when requested by NCS
 - a. Spotters give their names and phonetically spelling their amateur radio call signs, their location by city or town, nearest city or town, nearest major road intersection, or county quadrant.
 - 1) Shelby County quadrants are divided into east and west portions by I-75, and north and south portions by the northern city limits of Sidney. Sidney is located in the south portion of the county.
 - b. Spotters report what conditions they observed at their location using the criteria noted below.)
 - c. If possible, report the speed and direction of the weather event.
 - d. If a spotter reports a tornado on the ground or a funnel cloud, all other spotters go Standby status until requested by NCS to report confirmation or correction to the report.
 - 1) At no time should a spotter place themselves in danger from the weather event just to send in a weather report.
2. Spotters are requested to remain on the net until excused by Net Control.
 - a. If a spotter must leave the net for a non-emergency reason, spotter must notify Net Control before leaving.

V. Concluding the Net

- A. When released by Dayton SKYWARN (W8OK) or NWS Wilmington, Net Control will return the frequency to normal amateur use and thank all stations who checked in.
 - 1. place logs in the binder in the Communications Room.

VI. Miscellaneous

- A. If a report is received noting that the Cridersville All Hazards Radio Broadcast (KXB95) is off the air, notify NWS Wilmington as soon as possible.
- B. Net Control Station operator should remain calm and professional in demeanor. Liaisons with other agencies and stations should be handled with trust, respect, and courtesy. If there are any negative issues, address those issues off -the-air with the Emergency Coordinator after the net has been secured. The AEC SKYWARN should be included in the discussions, if possible.
- C. When Dayton SKYWARN (W8OK) comes up on the 146.835 repeater, they are considered Net Control and the repeater shifts from a free net to a directed net. County reporting stations must request NCS permission to communicate with another county reporting station.
- D. Safety first! Mobile spotting is done at the individual spotter's discretion and acceptance of risk. Mobile spotters are requested to keep NCS regularly apprised of any changes in their location, weather events, or damage reports.

VII. Severe Weather Criteria

- A. Definition: Severe Weather is defined by the National Weather Service as events with:

- 1. 58 mph or higher winds, whether gust or steady wind.
- 2. hail of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter or larger
- 3. any thunderstorm which produces a tornado

NOTE: Frequency of lightning is not a measure of storm severity. All thunderstorms produce lightning.

- B. Severe Weather to Report to National Weather Service:

- 1. winds in excess of 40 mph (measured or estimated)
- 2. any hail (measure if possible, estimated size in comparison to United States coins)
 - a. pea size - $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, penny size - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, nickel sized - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, quarter size - 1 inch, etc.
- 3. rainfall in excess of 1 inch per hour. Reporting by rate is acceptable, e.g., $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in 15 minutes, as long as the report is measured and timed accurately.
- 4. any rotation in clouds, watch from a safe location for a few minutes to be sure
- 5. any wall cloud, funnel cloud, or tornado on the ground
- 6. large trees or tree limbs downed, measure diameter or give as accurate an estimate as possible
- 7. any structural damage, report location, type of building, construction, etc.
- 8. flooding over roadways, impassable roads, or flooding in areas that do not normally flood.