

Wayne County SKYWARN Net Procedures

August 10, 2010

The power point presentation for SKYWARN is on the NWS web site for use as a refresher. This training course is updated every two years. To be qualified as a SKYWARN spotter you must take the course in a class room at minimum every two years. You may take it more often if you like. SPRING

Spotters who are ham radio operators in Wayne County can take part in our SKYWARN nets on our 2 meter repeaters. All other persons located in other counties or countries are to check into their respective nets. These other people are not to checkin on the Wayne County net.

The primary repeater is 145.33- MHz with 100 Hz PL and the secondary or backup repeater is 147.16+ MHz with 100Hz PL. If no net is in session or you cannot make it to a radio, use the 800 number from your spotter card to report a severe weather condition. This number is unpublished so do not repeat it on the air or post on anywhere on the web.

SKYWARN nets are CONTROLLED nets and no transmission is allowed without the permission of the Net Control Station. Please keep your transmissions short. Please organize your thoughts before transmitting.

You must first call the NCS and be recognized before you make a transmission. Use this method: Give your call sign phonetically and wait for the NCS to answer. The NCS may be busy making notes, checking radar, preparing another warning statement or talking with MICON. Speak slowly, pens don't write as fast as you can talk.

When checking in please give no other information than your callsign, name, city and major cross streets ONLY. Your SKYWARN spotter ID number is not needed.

Individual hams are never to make a report directly on the MICON net frequency during an active net. You may listen only. The MICON net is a CLOSED net. This net is in the 440 MHz band.

Always listen first to see what condition the SKYWARN net is in. There are three net conditions, Green, Yellow and Red.

Green - Under condition green, net control will accept check-ins, reports of approaching thunderstorms, heavy rain, gust front arrival, intense frequent lightning, pea size hail or larger, damaging winds, torrential rains, flooding over the curbs, wall clouds, funnel clouds, or tornadoes. Please keep your transmissions short, no transmissions are to be made without the approval of the Net Control Station. If you have a severe weather report to give, please feel free to call in.

Yellow – Under condition yellow, net control will NOT accept check-ins, and only wants reports of heavy, torrential, or horizontal rain, flooding over the curb 6 inches deep or more, damaging winds greater than 40 MPH, gust front arrivals, hail pea sized or larger, intense frequent lightning, wall clouds, funnel clouds, or tornadoes. Please keep your transmissions short, no transmissions are to be made without the approval of the Net Control Station. Any check-ins will be taken after the net is returned to condition green. If you have a severe weather report to give that meets this criteria, please feel free to call in.

Red - Under condition red, net control will not accept check-ins, and only wants reports of hail three quarters of an inch in diameter or larger, winds in EXCESS of 60 MPH, wall clouds,

funnel clouds, or tornadoes. Please keep your transmissions short, no transmissions are to be made without the approval of the Net Control Station. Any check-ins will be taken after the net is returned to condition green. If you have a severe weather report that meets this criteria, please feel free to call in.

When reporting remember to use the T.E.L. System.

Time – The local time of the effect, when it actually happened. This helps the NWS track the storm effects on radar and if and where they might need to issue an updated warning.

Effect – Describe the effect as accurately and in as simple of terms as possible. Use standards when describing. State if wind speeds are measured or estimated.

Location – The city and the closest MAIN cross streets that would be found on a metro Detroit map. GPS over the radio takes too much time and there is too much margin for error.

We will no longer use a pre-net check-in period. You can check in after the net or when the net condition is reduced to green. When the net is in condition Yellow or Red, do not call net control to report you are leaving the area or the net.

Damage reports should be sent on the web via eSpotter or called in after the storm has left the 17 county area that the White Lake office is responsible for. Other areas may still be in condition yellow or red. If any county is in condition red or yellow, MICON will be under condition red or yellow. Do not use the 800 number when the bad weather is still in the area for damage reports.

Occasionally we will have an untrained operator make a report. We will try and confirm this report with a trained spotter. If no confirmation is made, we will pass the information onto the NWS with the qualification that the information came from an untrained spotter. If you are untrained and make a report, please inform the NCS when making the report.

Never make a second hand report or “good weather report” on the net. Only report bad weather you actually witness. Remember, the National Weather Service has a better radar feed than you or any other web source.

NEVER self deploy to an affected area. You may be walking right into a hazardous chemical spill, downed power lines, or flooded and washed out roads then become another victim. If you are sent to an area you will be given directions for safe entry.

Remember your personal safety and the safety of your family comes first.

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NWS Detroit: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx/> WCARPSC: <http://www.wa8eoc.org/>