

# Clarke County ARES

## SKYWARN NET HANDBOOK



**SKYWARN**



## CLARKE COUNTY ARES SKYWARN SCRIPT

If you are acting as a SkyWarn Net Operator or just want to get a feel for how the Skywarn Net operates, here are the scripts that will act as a general communications guideline during a net.

### **CONDITION BLUE**

SkyWarn Network Operators' Script for Condition BLUE  
(NO ANNOUNCEMENTS NECESSARY)

### **CONDITION GREEN**

SkyWarn Network Operators' Script for Condition GREEN

This is (Your Call) SkyWarn Net Operator. The SkyWarn net is currently at condition GREEN due to the possibility of severe weather in our area today/tonight. Please monitor this frequency for other developments and possible spotter activation. This is (Your Call) clear. (Announce once an hour if possible)

### **CONDITION YELLOW**

SkyWarn Network Operators' Script for Condition Yellow

This is (Your Call) SkyWarn Net Operator. The SkyWarn net is currently at condition YELLOW due to (GIVE REASON). At condition Yellow, this an informal weather net to alert spotters and to check equipment. During condition YELLOW, informal operator traffic will be allowed as well as informal weather reports. Anyone interested in participating in the Clarke County ARES Skywarn Net please check in now using "This is", un-key and then give your call and location (use Spotter map if available). (TAKE and VERIFY Check-ins)

(Repeat every 30 minutes or as conditions warrant)

Thank you.....

Is there any emergency traffic at this time? (TAKE EMERGENCY TRAFFIC)

Are there any weather reports at this time? (TAKE WEATHER TRAFFIC)

Assign an alternate Net Control in case of equipment failure.

Assign a station to monitor the NOAA Weather Radio frequency.

Assign a station to monitor the Watkinsville KD4AOZ repeater for tactical traffic in case of emergency response activation by a served agency.

Are there any operator to operator contacts at this time? (FACILITATE THE

OPERATOR TO OPERATOR CONTACTS)

Are there any equipment checks at this time? (GIVE SIGNAL REPORTS)

If there are any other check-ins please come now. (TAKE LATE CHECK-INS)

If there is no other traffic at this time, this (Your Call) SkyWarn Net Control station standing by and monitoring for additional weather information

(Repeat every 30 minutes or as conditions warrant)

(WHEN FINISHED)

This (Your Call) SkyWarn Net Control Station. The threat for severe weather has passed the Athens area. I would like to thank everyone who has participated in the net on behalf of the Clarke County-Athens area SkyWarn program. At this time I will return the Athens Radio Club Repeater to its' normal operation.

73 de (Your Call)

### **CONDITION RED**

SkyWarn Network Operators' Script for Condition RED

This is (Your Call) SkyWarn Net Operator. The SkyWarn net is currently at condition RED due to (GIVE REASON). At condition RED this a formal SkyWarn weather net. During condition RED only severe weather traffic will be allowed on this net. All traffic should be directed through Net Control. Report only the following events:

Tornadoes

Funnel Clouds

Rotating Wall Clouds that have sustained rotation for at least 5 minutes

Hail quarter size and larger

Winds greater than 50 mph that are causing damage

(Winter Precip. - Snow, Sleet, Freezing Rain, or Icing)

Anyone interested in participating in the Clarke County ARES Skywarn Net please check in now using "This is" ,un-key and then give your call, your location (use Spotter map if available), and if you have backup power. (TAKE and VERIFY Check-ins) .

(Repeat as conditions warrant)

Thank you.

Is there any emergency traffic at this time? (TAKE EMERGENCY TRAFFIC)

Are there any severe weather reports at this time? (TAKE WEATHER TRAFFIC)

If there are any other check-ins please come now. (TAKE LATE CHECK-INS)

Assign an alternate Net Control in case of equipment failure.

Assign a station to monitor the NOAA Weather Radio frequency.

Assign a station to monitor the Watkinsville KD4AOZ repeater for tactical traffic in case of emergency response activation by a served agency

For served agency reports and health and welfare traffic, please contact (Call) on the 147.045 Mhz (+ Tone 123) Watkinsville KD4AOZ repeater.

If there is no other traffic at this time, this (Your Call) SkyWarn Net Control station standing by and monitoring for additional weather information

(Repeat every 30 minutes or as conditions warrant)

(WHEN FINISHED)

This (Your Call) SkyWarn Net Control Station. The threat for severe weather has passed the Athens area. I would like to thank everyone who has participated in the net on behalf of the Athens area SkyWarn program. At this time I will return the Athens Radio Club Repeater to its' normal operation.

73 de (Your Call)

## **SkyWarn Reporting Procedures**

### **Report Briefly:**

What you have seen: tornado, funnel cloud, flash flooding

Where you saw it: the direction and distance from a known location, i.e., 3 miles south of Danielsville. To avoid confusion, make sure you report the event location and not your location.

When you saw it: make sure you note the time of your observation.

What it was doing: describe the storm's direction and speed of travel, size and intensity, and destructiveness. Include any amount of uncertainty as needed, i.e., "funnel cloud; no debris visible at surface, but too far away to be certain it is not on ground."

Identify yourself and your location.

### **Report:**

Tornado

Funnel Cloud

Wall Cloud – Rotation must be sustained for 5-minutes to be reportable

Hail - Quarter Size or larger

Damaging winds - 50 mph or greater. Must be demonstrated by wind damage such as roof damage or large trees uprooted. Do not report uprooted trees to the NWS unless 3 have been uprooted in the area.

**Peachtree NWS Phone Number: 1-866-763-4466**

## Estimating Wind Speeds

- 0 mph      Smoke rises vertically
- 1-3 mph    Direction of wind shown by smoke drift but not by wind vanes
- 4-7 mph    Wind felt on face, leaves rustle, ordinary wind vane moved by wind
- 8-12 mph   Leaves and small twigs in motion, light flags extended
- 13-18 mph  Dust raised, loose paper raised, small branches move
- 19-24 mph  Small leafy trees sway, crested wavelets form on lakes and ponds
- 25-31 mph  Large branches in motion, whistling in telephone wires or link fences
- 32-38 mph  Whole trees in motion, inconvenience felt walking against wind
- 39-46 mph  Twigs break off trees, impedes progress while walking
- 47-54 mph  Slight structural damage (Chimneys, shingles)
- 55-63mph   Trees uprooted, widespread structural damage, mainly roofs
- 64-72mph   Damage to structures major and widespread, roofs and windows damaged

## Lightning Intensity

- Occasional – a couple of flashes every minutes
- Frequent – a flash every 10 seconds or so
- Continuous – flashes with few interruptions

## Estimating Hail Size

- 0.125 inch    BB Size
- 0.25 inch    Pea Size
- 0.50 inch
- 0.75 inch    Dime Size
- 0.88 inches   Nickel Size
- 1.00 inch    Quarter Size
- 1.25 inches   Half Dollar Size
- 1.50 inches   Ping Pong Ball
- 1.75 inches   Golf Ball Size
- 2.00 inches   Pool Ball Size
- 2.50 inches   Tennis Ball Size
- 2.75 inches   Baseball Size
- 4.00 inches   Grapefruit Size
- 4.50 inches   Softball Size

## SKYWARN QUICK REFERENCE

PRI: 146.745- PL 123.0

SEC: 147.075+ PL 123.0

**Special Note:** Keep radio transmissions short, direct and leave any frequencies actively in use for weather as chatter free as possible.

**Wind Speed:** Winds in excess of 58mph - tree limbs are usually the approximate size of your wrist on the ground. Damage to chimneys and TV antennas; pushes over shallow rooted trees.

**Rainfall:** Estimated rainfall that exceeds 1" per hour

**Hail:** 1" or quarter sized, use largest hail you have observed.

|      |                               |      |                  |
|------|-------------------------------|------|------------------|
| ¼"   | Pea Size                      | 1 ¾" | Golf Ball Size   |
| ½"   |                               | 2"   | Hen Egg Size     |
| ¾"   | Dime Size                     | 2 ½" | Tennis Ball Size |
| 7/8" | Nickel Size                   | 2 ¾" | Baseball Size    |
| 1"   | Quarter Size                  | 3"   | Teacup Size      |
| 1 ¼" | Half Dollar Size              | 4"   | Grapefruit Size  |
| 1 ½" | Walnut or Ping Pong Ball Size | 4 ½" | Softball Size    |

**Tornadoes:** A tornado is a violent column of air rotating from the base of the clouds and touching the ground. You should be able to see debris at the ground level. This often is occurring with a lowering of a funnel from a wall cloud. Observe for rotation. Remain a safe distance away.

Give the following in your report immediately - slowly, methodically, and brief as possible:

- Your location - use cross roads or named roads, approx
- distance and direction from any town; other identifiers are
- grain elevators
- Time of observation
- Your distance and direction from the observed report
- Define the tornado - "is it a rope, classic or wedge"
- Direction the tornado is moving, approximate forward speed

**Flooding:** Rivers, creeks and streams over their banks, water over roads.







