

# 16 NOV 04 – WA2EXX/KJ2N (Net Control) Training Material

## Skywarn Activation and Reporting

### Activation:

When the National Weather Service issues a watch or warning, The NOAA Weather Radio Tone-Alert will make an audible sound. The NWR Tone-Alert serves as the basis to automatically activate Skywarn. On occasion, severe weather conditions might occur without Skywarn having already been activated.

The Upton Office has an amateur radio station in the office that will be staffed during more widespread or significant hazardous weather. Staffing will usually coincide with the issuance of the following watches and/or warnings:

- Severe Thunderstorm, Tornado, and Flash Flood Watches
- Blizzard, Hurricane and Coastal Flood Warnings

The duty Lead Forecaster will make the decision whether amateur radio staffing is required or not on a case-by-case basis, usually dependant on how widespread or life-threatening the situation is. The duty Lead Forecaster may also decide to request Skywarn activation by county, region or area based on the perceived weather threat(s) of the day.

### Reporting:

#### SKYWARN in the Cold Season

#### HIGHEST PRIORITY Items (important whether or not SKYWARN has been activated):

- Any deaths or injuries associated with hazardous weather.
- Damaging wind gusts of 58 mph or higher, whether or not accompanied by a thunderstorm.
  - If you are unsure of the speed, report any downed trees or power lines or structural damage to homes (e.g. slates off roof, antenna downed).
- Flooding of streams and rivers onto roadways, homes or businesses.
- Urban flooding significant enough to make roadways or underpasses impassable.
- Two inches of rain within a twelve hour period.
- One inch of rain in an hour in urban areas.
- Heavy accumulation of ice which downs trees or power lines.
- Ice jams on rivers or streams which produce flooding.

#### Other Priority Items:

- Estimated wind gusts from 40-57 mph.
- Freezing rain or sleet occurring when none is forecast.
- A thunderstorm in progress when none is forecast.

- Presence of rain when only frozen precipitation is forecast (sleet, snow, and/or freezing rain).
- Rain or snowmelt which causes minor roadway flooding or flooding of streams.
- Blowing or drifting snow which closes roadways.

## **Snowfall Reporting Criteria:**

**Please use the following criteria to report snowfall:**

- When snow accumulates 1 inch (especially if none is forecast).
- When snow accumulates 3 inches (the NWS issues an advisory for 4 inches).
- When snow accumulates 5 inches (the NWS issues a warning for 6 inches).
- When snow accumulates 1 inch per hour.
- Storm Total Snowfall

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **New Essex County Skywarn Coordinator**

**Stan Rogacki - WA2EXX** has been appointed Skywarn coordinator for Essex County by the National Weather Service in Upton, NY. He can be reached on this repeater or via email at [wa2exx@essexskywarn.org](mailto:wa2exx@essexskywarn.org). There is also a link to his email address on the Essex County Skywarn web page.

### **Essex County Skywarn on the Internet**

Essex County Skywarn has a new web site. The URL is <http://www.essexskywarn.org>. The site contains information about NOAA weather radio, severe weather reporting criteria, and links to the Upton, NY NWS web site.

### **Special Event: SKYWARN Recognition Day December 4, 2004 (0000 - 2400 UTC.)**

SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. The object is for all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. SKYWARN Recognition Day serves to celebrate the contributions to public safety made by amateur radio operators during threatening weather.

For more info goto: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>

## **Next Weeks Net Topics**

NOAA Weather Radio